

to know what has happened to Schauer, Welter & Co., Ltd., the late German proprietors, describing themselves as "Safari outfitters, planters, farmers, etc."!! Trained nurses now go far afield—they are trained to observe—they can be just as useful as royal princes in advising as to "health resorts," and other unconsidered trifles, so that they may for the future be released from enemy tentacles.

A Sister from France writes: "I take this opportunity of sending you my very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Peace and goodwill seem to recede more and more into the background each successive Christmas since the war began, and yet I think there never was a time when hearts and nations were more united than now, and here we cannot fail but realise it, as our patients vary very much in colour and speak with many tongues. We are still receiving the wounded from Verdun, but keeping them longer, which is satisfactory to us nurses. Our hospital filled up when the French took the forts of Douaumont and Vaux. We have many Arabs, Senegalese, Martiniques, Indo-Chinois, and they all speak a different language. Now that the snow is on the ground and the icy wind sweeps down from the hills these poor coloured warriors feel the climate very severely.

"I have many Arabs in my division, and only one of them can speak French. He is from the desert, his home is at Biskra, and he asked me the other day if I had read Robert Hichens' books. He said he had often talked to him, as he was very well known at Biskra. My Arab said he lived quite near the 'Garden of Allah.' Sometimes here in the snows we feel very near the East. I went into a ward the other night, the electric light was out and two candles were burning. In the dim light I saw a circle of black faces, over the head of each was thrown something white, a towel or a handkerchief. Their bodies were swaying backwards and forwards in a rhythmic manner, and from their throats came a weird chant, the same words over and over again in a very sad minor key. They were worshipping the Koran.

"One poor Arab has, after frostbite and gangrene, had one foot and part of the other amputated (and who is going to tell him). He has been taught to say 'Merci, Sister,' and replies with these words and a smile to all I say to him. He has tried to teach me a few words of Arabic, but is in despair over my bad accent, but I do my best, as they do so love to hear a word in their own language.

"It is beautiful to see the great kindness and strong sympathy between the French soldiers and these coloured comrades. They lie side by side in the same wards and eat the same food. The French will do anything for these poor Arabs, and many times I have seen tears in the great, expressive eyes of these big, brown men of the East when they speak to others of this kindness. '*Camarades les Français*,' they explain. I am sure the war is going to unite the nations."

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The King and Queen paid a visit to King George Hospital in Stamford Street on the afternoon of Christmas Day, where 16,000 heroes are now being well cared for. Their Majesties were received by the Hon. W. H. Goschen, chairman of the hospital committee, Colonel R. J. C. Cottell, the officer commanding, and Miss Davies, the matron. Every ward was visited by either the King, Queen, or the Royal children, and each patient received at their hands a copy of the Queen's Gift Book.

Among the beds in the hospital are four given by the King and two by the Queen. During their visit their Majesties presented portraits of themselves to hang over these beds. The King personally hung two of the pictures in their places, much to the gratification of the men in the wards.

Queen Mary was accompanied by the matron on her round.

Upon leaving the hospital, the Royal visitors had a great ovation from the crowds of soldiers and civilians. First came the cheers, and then cries of "Are we downhearted?" with the unanimous answer, "No," and finally the soldiers shouted "No premature peace."

On Christmas Day, Queen Alexandra paid a visit to the Queen Alexandra Hospital at Millbank, and took sacrament in the chapel in the officers' section, afterwards making a tour of the wards.

Miss May Whitty (Chairman) and the Lady Cowdray (Joint Hon. Treasurer with Miss Fellowes-Robinson), of the British Women's Hospital, 21, Old Bond Street, W., writes to say that now that the "Star and Garter" Building and Equipment Fund is completed they feel that some acknowledgment should be made to the Press, both in London and the Provinces, and indeed all over the Empire, for the very generous support it has given to their work, and for the widespread publicity which has been of such immense service in making their appeal such an immediate and complete success.

£100,381 was the sum raised by the late Lord Mayor's appeal on France's Day, and a most beneficial use is being made of the money to ameliorate the sufferings of the French sick and wounded through the Comité de Londres, Croix Rouge Française, of which the Vicomtesse de la Panouse is President and Mr. D. H. Illingworth Director-General.

The reports issued by the Canadian Red Cross Society for 1914 and 1915 contain a record of splendid work for the Empire, and amongst its activities, and through the generosity of the Hon. Mrs. Graham Murray, a rest home for Canadian nurses has been operated at 13, Cheyne Place, S.W., the running expenses having been paid by the Society.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)