

## FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

The Corps is very fortunate in having retained the services of some fifty-five Sisters who have been members for upwards of twelve months—quite a number, indeed, for twenty months—and who have been busily engaged in France during that time. It means that these Sisters are the right sort of women for the work, and that every month, as they get more attached to it, they become more and more valuable in the self-denying service they are rendering in French military hospitals and ambulances. In recognition of this service, the addition to their small salaries, which is now given by the Comité de Londres, Croix Rouge Française, is greatly valued by the Sisters, not so much for its monetary value, but as proof of appreciation upon the part of the President, Vicomtesse de la Panouse, of their usefulness to her glorious compatriots when sick and wounded. We are none of us above a little encouragement in our difficult tasks in this world.

No new Sisters will be sent to France until early in September, as there is such a great need of trained nurses for our soldiers at home—and those who are tired must be relieved for rest and holidays. The policy of the Committee has always been to supply to our heroic allies only efficiently trained and certificated nurses—on the assumption that only the best is good enough for sick and wounded men, especially when the help given is under entirely new conditions, which tax the resources and temperaments of the very best women.

The Committee of the F.F.N.C. have received the following communication:—

“Sunny Hurst,” Caton.

Mr. and Mrs. Addison and family express their many thanks for the expression of sympathy towards them in the sad loss of their daughter Clementina, who died with a soldier's spirit and was buried as one; a party of soldiers from the Lancaster Barracks accompanied the remains and laid them to rest.

The wreath arrived quite safely; we thank all who most kindly supported it.

A most impressive service was held at the village church, special hymns and an anthem being sung by the choir and children.

The coffin was enfolded in the Union Jack and the French flag; the latter was afterwards buried with the remains. It was through her great devotion to the French soldiers that she gave her life as a sacrifice for others.

### JULY 14TH, 1916. AN HISTORIC DAY.

The 14th July, 1916, will long live in the memory of Parisians, not as the happy, merry, care-free “fourteenth” that they knew so well how to celebrate in the now almost forgotten pre-war days,

but as a day on which they were permitted to do homage and acclaim their thanks to the representatives of the glorious Armies who are so nobly fighting and dying for their homes and homelands, yea, and even for greater things.

It will also be remembered as the first time foreign troops have assisted at France's “National Fête.”

First came the review, by the President, of French, British, Russian and Belgian troops, followed by the giving of some 500 diplomas, Medals and Crosses to the families of officers and soldiers who have fallen in their country's service, and the President's magnificent address, in the course of which he said:

“In distributing to-day these first commemorative diplomas in the presence of regiments of the Allied troops and of the population of Paris, we have purposed simply to express in a solemn and symbolic manner, the gratitude which the nation cherishes towards its generous children who have died to save it.”

When the ceremony at the Petit Palace closed, the great procession of between 10,000 and 15,000 troops began, and what a sight it was! Every window along the route crowded, the side walks packed with people of all ages and rank, who cheered, clapped and wept as regiment after regiment filed past with steady tread, and firm, resolute faces—for these were no mere show men, but men who had but just arrived from the district where Lucifer is stalking abroad, and who knew that on the morrow they would return to the grim fight, while they cheerily acknowledged the homage paid them.

The procession was opened and closed, as all Paris processions are, by mounted detachments of the Garde Républicaine. The Belgian troops, comprising Infantry, a Machine-gun platoon, Cyclists and Lancers; British, including Royal Scots, Gordon Highlanders, Anzacs, Indians, Canadians, Newfoundlanders and South Africans; the Russians, headed by General Lochwitsky; and the French soldiers, including Chasseurs, Alpines, Turcos from Algeria, New Moroccan companies, Annamites, Senegaliens, Fusiliers, Marines; a full battalion of Territorial Artillerymen with the beloved “75's,” and Cavalry from St. Cyr School. The martial music supplied by the various bands was more than inspiring, and the Scottish pipers and the Senegalian trumpeters met with tremendous applause, while the chanting of some of their fine battle songs with their haunting minor refrains by the Russians as they marched steadily and sturdily past was something to remember. But perhaps one of the most touching and impressive sights of this “expressive” review was the number of men among the onlookers who stood bareheaded during the whole hour that the procession took to pass, thus showing that they remembered this was not an ordinary 14th July review, but a ceremony in honour of their dead defenders.

E. H.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)