

## • FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

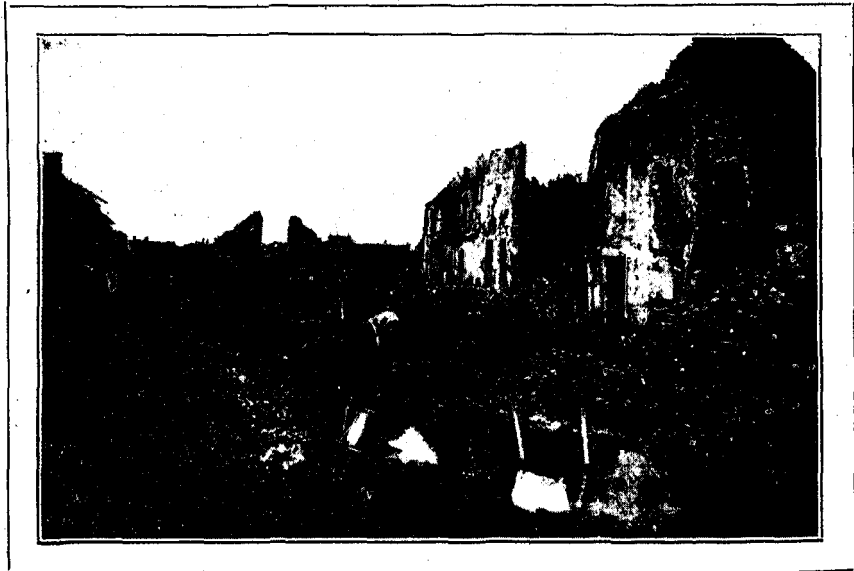
The decision of the Army Council that no more thoroughly trained nurses are to be permitted to offer their services to our Allies, unless they are first offered to the War Office, practically deprived the Committee of the F.F.N.C. of free selection of Sisters for the Corps; and as the needs of our own brave troops must come first, and "leavings" are not good enough for the glorious Poilu, the Committee decided not to increase the Corps on any such terms.

Then the generous British people gave the Comité de Londres, Croix Rouge Française, a munificent gift of £100,000, and it was proposed to the President the Vicomtesse de la Panouse that a few thousands of that gift might be very well spent in relieving the French Government of the cost of the F.F.N.C. and presenting as a gift the skilled services of the experienced Sisters now in France to the French Government which values them so highly, that for two-and-a-half years it has paid the cost of a large nursing staff, the Committee being responsible for the expenses of administration, travelling transfers, sickness, and other incidental expenses which have with great economy only averaged some £700 a year. With the consent of the President and Committee of the F.F.N.C., Miss Grace Ellison has placed this offer before M. Justin Godart, who has intimated his acceptance—and it is to be hoped that the matter may be satisfactorily arranged at an early date. The Sisters are to retain their military rank and all privileges they are granted as French officers, and the gift of the Corps will, we hope, be accepted as evidence of the devoted admiration of the British people for their glorious Allies. Should this arrangement be successfully concluded, we sincerely congratulate Miss Ellison on the continued security to the sick and wounded French soldiers for whom she has worked so devotedly for upwards of two years, of the ministrations of the Sisters, who have won for themselves the very highest commendation in French medical circles, and the admiration and gratitude of their patients.

The Report for 1916 which has been recently issued shows how successfully the work has been carried on by the Committee and staff. A

substantial balance of £665 ros. 2d., at the end of the financial year, proves the vigilance with which the subscriptions have been expended. We venture to think few War Charities have accomplished finer work at so little cost.

A Sister writes from the War Zone: "It will be with many regrets that I shall leave this work. . . . Nothing can exceed the admiration that we have for the fine French soldiers, and also for the remaining residents in this region. I enclose a photo. of a dear old woman who continues to reside in the one undamaged room in her home. Miss P—— and I went to see her and she proudly showed us various mementoes of her family killed in this war and also in 1870. There is another resident who has always a hot brick in readiness for Mademoiselle—on which to warm her feet.' I look in and see her every day if I can;



A DEAR OLD WOMAN IN THE WAR ZONE.

she always gives a warm welcome and has such an interesting history. I shall never forget all these dear people and hope to accept some day an invitation I have from a lady in the neighbourhood to revisit this spot after the war. . . . The nice parcels we have received from time to time have been most useful; the soldiers of this invaded area are cut off from their friends."

The French Government has just conferred the Médaille des Epidémies upon the women doctors of the Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont. The recipients of this honour are the C.M.O., Miss Frances Ivens, to whom the medal has been given in gold; Miss Ruth Nicholson, Mrs. Berry, Miss Courtauld, Miss Ross, Mrs. Agnes Savill, and Miss Wilson; 31 of the nurses and orderlies have also received similar medals in silver and bronze.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)