

For a long time these cottages were the only houses at La Panne, which was seldom visited, except by a few artists, but about 25 years ago the surveyors and architects made their appearance, paths and roads were laid out, and, as if by magic, cottages and villas and the inevitable *digue de mer* have sprung up on the dunes near the sea and not very far from the original village. The chief feature of the new La Panne is that the houses are, except those on the sea front, built on the natural levels of the ground, some perched on the tops of the dunes, and others in the hollows which separate them. The effect is extremely picturesque, and the example of the builders of La Panne is being followed at other places.

A most interesting museum attached to the Val de Grace Hospital has recently been arranged in Paris, where one may see in realistically coloured plaster casts the marvels accomplished by surgery for wounded soldiers since the war.

In a series of galleries there is a succession of models of the different parts which form the Service de Santé in full work at the front. Trained nurses passing through Paris should try to obtain permission to see these historic galleries.

At the French-Canadian Hospital at St. Cloud Colonel le Bel, the chief doctor of the Hospital, who came to France with the first Canadian contingent, has been presented with the Cross of the Legion of Honour.

### FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

*Kai Tiaki* is taking up the question of a New Zealand Nurses' Memorial Fund, first negotiated by "Peter Pan" in the "Evening Post." His letter comments on the fact that nothing has yet been done for the nurses, his attention having been drawn to them by the announcement of Sister Lind's death. Of her he says: "A delightful, alert, tactful nurse, devoted to her profession." She and her friend, Miss Hitchcock were in England (members of the Registered Nurses' Society) when war broke out, and immediately volunteered for service first in Belgium and then in France, and endured many hardships. As members of the French Flag Nursing Corps, these two dear women rendered heroic service at Bergues and elsewhere, and should the sacrifice of her life inspire recognition and help for her fellow nurses—who have also given greatly in this war—Sister Lind well deserves that her name, with others, notably the heroines of the *Marquette*, should be associated with the memorial; be it a nurses' rest home or some other practical gift.

Mrs. Borden Turner's Hospital, where a very happy unit of the F.F.N.C. have been at work for some time, has been moved from Rousbrugge, much enlarged, and has begun to admit very severe cases.

### WITH A COLLECTING COMPANY.

A good deal of perhaps mistaken criticism was evoked by the suggestion of Mrs. H. J. Tennant at the Albert Hall that women should occupy themselves in a house to house collecting of rags, but scraps in war time are evidently not overlooked by our well-organised enemy the Hun, as we learn from the following article in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*.

#### SCRAPS IN WAR TIME.

The Soldiers of course call them the "Rag and Bone Men" with that characteristic sense of humour which makes a joke of everything. And if you watch a Collecting Company at work, the childish memories suggested by the nickname are the first to occur to mind. You see the donkeys stepping along the street, you hear the tune after which the children run, as they did after the Pied Piper of Hamelin; you see the old Rag Collector when his pile is large enough, opening a mysterious box and bringing out all sorts of lovely things—necklaces, rings, everything of incredibly good quality and to the child mind so eminently desirable and enticing—the reward of those who have helped him in his labours. This peaceful picture of childhood's days has now been obliterated. Other times have come upon us, placing even the Rag and Bone men in Government service; and in no unimportant post. As in civil life, the contempt for this calling was founded upon an absolute ignorance of the value of old stuff as raw material for many important manufactures, so it was too in military matters. People used to despise the supply and transport corps, regarding it as unimportant and despicable; but in this war, its extreme importance has been proved. Where would the fighting regiments be without provisions and ammunition behind them? Any part of the army is just a link in one great chain, and no chain is stronger than its weakest link! The Collecting Company must be judged from this point of view.

Our enemies thought to kill us from want of food and of raw materials, copper, nickel, india-rubber, &c. That was a good plan, but it was made without taking into account German science and civil organisation, or lastly, the Collecting Companies. How they help, we will see by a glance at their work. Their activity extends over the whole of the supply train and wherever the army is found, to the farthest grave on the field of battle.

The Collecting Company gathers up all the equipment carelessly flung aside, every worn-out weapon; superfluous articles of kit, &c, cast away clothing, any kind of damaged material, and collects any kind of metal from a copper wire to a cast horse shoe or an empty jam tin—from huge oak wine-casks to the smallest beer bottle, from railway carriages that have been standing under fire, to a single broken wheel.

The railway nickel-steel lines, which have been misused, are also collected and taken to a repair

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