

letter recently received from an officer in France who has taken much trouble to report on the efficacy of these antiparasitic vests.

"The shirts are doing good work, and there is quite a demand for them. The billets we occupy are not very clean, and consequently scabies is quite common. For scabies the shirts are excellent. For lice they do the work, but in some cases take time before they actually kill the lice. For some days the latter lie dormant on the shirts before they die. One man showed me a shirt with over 200 dead on it. This is encouraging as to their efficacy."

NURSING AND THE WAR.

On Saturday His Majesty the King presented the decoration of the Royal Red Cross to the following Matrons, Sisters and Nurses:—

THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

FIRST CLASS.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.—*Matron*: Alicia Williams. *Sister*: Elizabeth McGill.

CIVIL NURSING SERVICE.—*Matrons*: Isabel Davidson, Dora Finch, Annie McIntosh, Constance Metcalfe, Emily Scott, Jessie Stevenson, Elizabeth Stewart, and Mary Thorburn.

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT.—Mrs. Parsons.

SECOND CLASS.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.—*Matrons*: Lucy Jolley and Mary Kinloch.

CIVIL NURSING SERVICE.—*Matrons*: Florence Healey, Mary Herbert, Sarah Hutchinson, Katherine Jackson, Catherine Johnston, Vera Spencer-Jones, Amelia Lawson, Margaret Low, Christina MacCallum, Jane MacMaster, Mary Macrae, Alice Moir, Katherine Platt, Annie Reay, Elizabeth Smith, Edith Sordy.

Assistant Matrons: Jean Greig, Kate Hebdon, Margaret Herriott, Louise Hotine, Eva Jones.

Sisters: Gertrude Carter, Hilda Goldthorp, Annie Grattan, Nina Gray, Lilian Howarth, Clara Lawrenson, Kathleen O'Connell, Ida Page, Rose Smith, Eden Staveley, Florence Rollinson.

Staff Nurses: Elizabeth Bousfield and Catherine Mackenzie.

CANADIAN NURSING SERVICE.—*Sister*: Helena, MacLaughlin.

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT.—Lady Sargant.

Queen Alexandra received at Marlborough House the Matrons, Sisters and Staff Nurses of the Military and Civil Nursing Services who have been awarded the Royal Red Cross, subsequent to the Investiture at Buckingham Palace.

The Report of the Committee on the Supply of Nurses is, we are informed by the Secretary of the War Office, still under the consideration of the

Council. It would be interesting to know why this document still hangs fire. Parliament and the public have been awaiting its publication for months.

Just as large detachments of trained nurses were drafted to France from our large Territorial Hospitals, large convoys of very seriously wounded men have been admitted, and the depleted nursing staff has had a most arduous time, and people have been pressed into the service who are not of the high standard of which the Territorial Nurses are justly proud.

We hear with sorrow of a great number of major operations, especially of amputations, being necessary, owing to the terrible injuries to the lower limbs. One poor lad, who had lost his leg at the hip joint and was recovering from terrible attacks of hæmorrhage, made us smile, in spite of a lump in one's throat. "I'm glad to get rid of it," he said, "and only sorry it was too far gone for anatomical purposes—seems sort of waste." And then he added: "It's all right with *her*. She says it's me face as she fell in love with—not me leg." She seems the right sort.

Lord Derby's call for nurses has resulted in a few letters in the *Times*. One "Observer" is all for promoting V.A.D.s to posts of responsibility and honour; "they are," he writes, "the very stuff of which the nursing profession has needed more for many years. Unless they are utilised now will they still be available for the Army after the war, and is it right to deprive the British soldier now of their services, utilised to the full, whilst he has in a good percentage of cases to endure the ministrations of the 'trained' nurse of inferior capacity and standard of duty?"

Mr. George Buchanan makes public the case of Miss Bridger, evidently one of the victims of the system of despotism rife under the "Serf Clause" to which we have drawn public attention.

"One who knows," a V.A.D., assures "the trained nurse that the last thing a V.A.D. wishes is to compete for a position she herself realises she is not competent to fill," although she states "since V.A.D.s first started their careers in military hospitals they have been up against professional jealousy."

The *Times* for once has permitted "A Trained Nurse" to speak for her profession—and an excellent résumé of this vexed question she gives—the pith of which is that three years' systematic training in the nursing of men, women, and children in all the branches of general nursing, and discipline withal, are necessary to equip a trained nurse for her responsible duties. "Again, the war has provided a type of work practically unknown in peace time, and which will, we hope, before long make little demands on the nursing world; also the use of orderlies, and the general military routine are unknown quantities in the training hospital, while the exigencies of war

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