

staff, clerks, chauffeurs, paymasters and so on has greatly depreciated its value. Is it not the same with our Royal Red Cross? Why should it have been awarded to V.A.D. clerical workers and even showered upon nurses who have merely done routine duty in military wards? In the former case the once exclusive R.R.C. may well be termed an "inkpot" decoration. And when we see long service Matrons of large hospitals given a "second class" when clerical workers and V.A.D.s are awarded the R.R.C. first class, it is surely time to consider whether it is worth having at all.

The following quotation from Mr. Martin Swayne's "Mesopotamia" contains a very high appreciation of our nurses:—

"It was a singular spot to find a large number of

ness. It is not so much a physical factor as a moral one. It seemed possible to induce a practice of going sick very easily, and in that climate it was only necessary to permit some inner act of surrender that escapes simple definition, but resembles the lowering of a dog's tail, and one becomes a sick man. It was not exactly malingering."

"Shortly after we left Amara, the news came that Sir Victor Horsley had died. It was in a season of extreme heat, when death comes suddenly in many forms. Eighty officers attended his funeral in columns of fours, the most junior in front. He had a coffin. Wood was precious in Amara. There were some other bodies sewn up in blankets. A long, dusty march of a mile to the cemetery, a shallow earth grave, a brief ceremony, the same for all, and a weary tramp



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN INSPECTS NURSES AT THE FAZAKERLEY HOSPITAL LIVERPOOL.

women, away up in the heart of that elemental country of fire and water and earth. But they remained untouched by any kind of pessimism, nor were they greatly interested in the campaign as a military affair. All their interest was in their work. They were a wonderful stimulus. Where a man unwittingly tended to let things slide they exhorted and energised. In details, they did not seem to show that gradual decadence that creeps imperceptibly over men when isolated and overworked. It is perhaps so subtle that it takes a woman to detect it. Women may be theoretically unscientific, but they are essential to the maintenance of the scientific spirit and practice. Naturally they suffered sickness, but not nearly so much as one might have expected; for discipline plays a tremendous part in the avoidance of sick-

home in the sun—that was the final picture. There is one detail to add, and that is the lovely playing of the "Last Post" over the graves. In him we lost the finest surgeon in Mesopotamia."

"Towards the end of July, there were day temperatures of 124 degrees in the shade, and the wind, when it blew, seemed as if it had passed over a burning city. It was impossible to do anything save what was absolutely necessary. The sickness amongst the medical staff became rather serious, and at times we had to look after far more cases than we could treat adequately. But in these moments of temporary dislocation, the presence of nurses made all the difference, and that state of confusion that had existed in Basra never occurred."

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