

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

### THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

On Wednesday, September 5th, the following ladies were decorated by the King with the Royal Red Cross:—

**FIRST CLASS.**—Matron Margaret Graham, Australian Army Nursing Service, and Matron Katherine MacLatchy, Canadian Army Nursing Service.

**SECOND CLASS.**—Matron Edith Cornwell, Australian Army Nursing Service, and Sister Ella Tucker, Australian Army Nursing Service.

We regret to learn that at a very advanced post in the war zone at which she was on duty, Miss Violetta Thurstan has been injured whilst tending a patient during bombardment. The injury caused some degree of concussion and Miss Thurstan has been warded (we believe in a kind Matron's own bedroom) and is still under medical care. Many friends will hope for a speedy and complete recovery; in the meanwhile we are glad to hear that this heroic little soldier is to be awarded the Military Medal. We write soldier as we are of opinion that all our splendid nurses on duty in the war zone, in danger as they are day after day of injury and death from shrapnel, well deserve this honourable title.

Miss C. C. du Sautoy—just home from the Ambulance de l'Océan, La Panne, which has been shelled out of house and home—has been appointed Matron of Lady Michelham's hospital for French soldiers, established in the magnificent Astoria Hotel, in the Champs Elysées, Paris. This should be a delightful charge; it contains, we believe, about 130 beds, and has a staff of English nurses. We paid this hospital a visit in 1915, when it was staffed by the Japanese unit, and found it beautifully equipped, and the deft little "Japs" immensely popular with the patients.

Miss Cancellor, the able chairman of the National Union of Trained Nurses, has returned to England from active service in Belgium. She will find plenty of work to do for the profession generally, in helping to evolve some order out of the general confusion which has resulted from "social dilution" during the war. The Union, however, owes a great debt of gratitude to Miss Eden and Miss Rimmer, for their untiring work at the office during the absence on war service of so many of their fellow-members. We women at the wheel know the value of a steady and vigilant outlook, where the good ship "Nursing Organisation" is concerned—if it is to be steered safely into Port "State Registration."

V.A.D.'s have made such a point of travelling first-class that the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and other bodies employing them, have conceded their demand, the long-suffering British public, who travel third, being taxed to meet the, in our

opinion, quite unnecessary expenditure. We wonder how many M.A.B. Matrons and Sisters can afford this luxury.

Lady Smith-Dorrien has received such a hearty and generous response to her appeal for hospital bags that with her limited staff it must take some time before all orders, which are being executed in rotation, are completed. She therefore pleads for special patience.

The Aberdeen Town Council has approved of a recommendation by the Tramways Committee that the privilege of travelling on the tramway cars at half-fare should, during the continuance of the war, be extended to the nurses of the local military hospitals, while in uniform, the minimum charge to be one halfpenny.

On September 7th, Maître Gaston de Leval gave an address before the American Bar Association at Saratoga, U.S.A., on his defence at Brussels of Miss Edith Cavell.

As an example of German inability to observe even the elementary principles of justice on which civilization rests, he asserted that no accused person in Belgium could get justice from the Germans. As a rule, counsel was never allowed to see his client until the moment the latter had to appear in Court, and seldom allowed to speak to the accused. Nor was he shown any document or given any information as to facts which told against his client.

He aroused the utmost indignation in his vast audience as he unfolded the details of the case.

Maître Gaston de Leval will have an enthusiastic reception when he lectures in London.

A correspondent in the *Times* writes:—"The death has occurred of Sister Fanny Kessissoglou at a French Red Cross ambulance station in Flanders. She worked indefatigably with the French unit of the Secours aux Blessés all through the Balkan campaign, and again joined her unit under Mme. Panas, doing duty at different points on the French front with the greatest courage and devotion. She received the Croix de Guerre, and was twice mentioned in dispatches. Weakened by her arduous work she succumbed to illness. This brave sister was buried with military honours at Zuydecoote, and is mourned by all the nursing staff and her many relations and friends, both in England and France.

### THE WAR NURSING BOOK OF THE YEAR.

"A Text-Book of War Nursing," by Miss Violetta Thurstan, just published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, Ltd., at 3s. 6d., bids fair to be the nursing book of the year. No nurse engaged in war nursing can afford to be without it.

When ordering this up-to-date work, ask also for the "Books for Nurses" booklet from this enterprising firm.

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