

NURSING AND THE WAR.

The Military Medal for bravery in the field has been awarded to Nursing Sister Miss Linda Bowles, Q.A.I.M.N.S. (Res.); Staff Nurse Miss Louisa Mary Gilbert, Q.A.I.M.N.S. (Res.); and Nursing Sister Miss Cissy Spence, Q.A.I.M.N.S. (Res.).

Many American doctors are now working in military hospitals in England, and we note from the picture on next page that they appear to be on the best of terms with the Sisters of our Imperial Nursing Service. This camaraderie between the interdependent professions of medicine and nursing is the best guarantee of the welfare of the patient.

NURSES REQUIRED FOR SERVICE OVERSEAS.

The following particulars concerning nurses wanted for overseas service with the Imperial Forces are considered of interest to the nursing profession, and Surgeon-General R. H. Fetherston, Director-General of the Australian Army Medical service, has communicated them to the *Australasian Nurses' Journal*.

Australia requires for her own hospitals overseas some 800 or 900 nurses. These nurses are entirely under Australian Matrons and A.M.C. officers, and are controlled through Miss Conyers, the Matron-in-Chief, A.I.F., London, she being on the staff of Surgeon-General Howse, D.M.S., A.I.F.

Early in the war 120 nurses left to join the Queen Alexandra Imperial Nursing Service. From time to time complaints have been received that there was a difficulty, with their pay, to make ends meet, and there were other difficulties. No nurses are now sent from Australia for the Queen Alexandra Imperial Nursing Service.

Before arranging to send the large number of nurses which left recently, arrangements were made with the Imperial Authorities that the nurses should all belong to the Australian Nursing Service, and receive Australian rates of pay, but

be lent to the Imperial Authorities for duty in their hospitals. It was also arranged that they would give the entire nursing of some hospitals to Australian nurses, would allow the A.N.S. to have their own Matron and Sisters, and be entirely responsible for the nursing in these hospitals, while the doctors and orderlies would belong to the Imperial Forces. This was begun in India, where three hospitals and several hospital ships are staffed by Australian nurses, who are controlled by Australian Matrons. Three large units recently sailed for Salonika under Australian Matrons. Each will staff what is known as a Double General Hospital of 1,040 beds, and a fourth will sail shortly.

It had been hoped in these hospitals to have given promotion to nurses now overseas who had been away for some time (in many cases two years), and all positions of Sister and Matrons were kept for them. Unfortunately, it was found that it was not possible to do this, and the Australian Authorities in England recommended that Matrons and Sisters should be appointed in Australia, and that the units should leave complete. It was regretted that well-merited promotion could not be given to nurses overseas. Most of the overseas nurses in Australia at the time were promoted. Many capable nurses have come forward who were competent to take positions as



MISS LINDA BOWLES, Q.A.I.M.N.S. (R.)

Sisters, and many have been on duty in Australia for some time, but it was not desired to place them over the heads of those who have been a long time in service, so all the units sailed with a considerable number of vacancies for Sisters, and it is hoped that even now some promotion may be arranged by drawing on those who have served in India and Egypt.

A principal Matron has been appointed in India, and a Principal Matron sent to Salonika. They are, of course, local appointments, and only affect the nurses in those districts.

As more nurses offer, and as accommodation on ships is available, they will be sent forward. Therefore, nurses who are still anxious for service should send their names in at once to the Principal Matrons in each military district.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)