

fire or bombs dropped by enemy aircraft:—Miss Elizabeth Mountford Humphries, Matron, T.F.N.S.; Miss Gladys Victoria King, Queen Alexandra's Hpl. (V.A.D.); Miss Helena Kate Repton, Queen Alexandra's Hpl., B.R.C.S.; Miss Ethel Isabella Devenish Meares; Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S. (R.); Miss Annie Weir, Nurse, B.R.C.S. (V.A.D.); Miss Lelia Helen Ann Thomson, Sister, T.F.N.S.; Miss Annie Alexander, Nursing Sister, Queen Alexandra's Hpl., B.R.C.S.

The following trained nurses left London on December 12th to join Unit No. 6 of the Serbian Relief Fund, for Serbian civilians on the Salonica front. Their training schools are indicated in each case.

Misses G. Evans (University Coll. Hosp.), B. Lendrum (Leeds General Inf.), R. Matthews (Crumpsall Inf.), E. Pleasance (Edmonton Inf.), E. K. Roberson, A. M. Shelton (London Hosp.), and K. Wright (Kent and Canterbury Hosp.).

Miss V. Fraser has gone with the unit as Lady Cook, and Miss Dunbar Pinkerton as Nursing Orderly.

A case of considerable importance was heard before Mr. Justice Darling and a Special Jury in the King's Bench Division on Tuesday, when Miss Eva Beatrice Bartrum, of Wickham Road, Wickham, Surrey, a V.A.D., brought an action for libel against Miss Ada Bryant, Matron of Benfleet Hall V.A.D. Hospital, Sutton, Surrey.

The letter of which the plaintiff complained was written by the Matron to the officer in command, and was as follows:—

I have this day suspended Miss E. B. Bartrum from her duties in this hospital for the following reasons:—

As a nurse she is utterly incompetent. Not only does she refuse to conform to the rules of the hospital, but encourages the men to do the same. She is flatly disobedient to orders, has several times changed the patients' diets without permission, giving special patients ordinary diets and theirs to favourites of her own. On the last occasion reported she gave a bad jaw case full diet instead of his special mince. Notwithstanding the strict orders about the patients' uniform, she has provided at least four men with silk collars and fancy ties.

Yesterday, October 7th, against the rules, she took four or six men to London without permission, and kept them out an hour after time. She also encouraged and allowed two other men to go to London for the whole day without leave. These also were late.

Two of the Sisters under whom she has been working say they would rather do all the work themselves than have her in their ward, her influence being so bad.

Therefore until I have instructions from you I have requested her to stay away from the hospital.

The plaintiff's stepfather subsequently interviewed the Matron.

The jury returned a verdict for the defendant, and judgment was entered accordingly. The judge remarked that "if there was any fault to find with the plaintiff as a nurse it was the defendant's duty to her employers to set it down."

We thoroughly endorse this view, and think it intolerable that the safety of our sick and wounded men should be imperilled by such undisciplined workers.

V.A.D.'S. AND PREFERENTIAL TRAINING.

A Meeting of general hospital Matrons, summoned by Miss McIntosh, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, was held at the Automobile Club, Pall Mall on Monday afternoon, to consider the future position of V.A.D.'s in reference to hospital training. The proceedings were strictly private, and the press was not admitted. As this question is one of vital importance to nurses in training, and about to sign contracts for four years' hard work, the proceedings of such meetings of Matrons cannot be given too wide publicity. We hope a statement of the deliberations and conclusions will be made public at an early date. Anyway, women entering our training-schools should have a straight answer to the question: Are V.A.D.'s to have preferential treatment in this School?

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

Everyone responsible for the care of our sick and wounded is already busy thinking out plans for making Christmas Day as happy as possible for those who have suffered for us, and who are parted from those dearest to them. We know that in spite of food controllers and other unpopular persons there will be a good supply of Christmas cheer. Let others remember the New Zealand nurses' fine motto: "Fighting men first," and see that they deny themselves, and send all the good things they can to our hospitals.

On Wednesday, December 12th, Queen Alexandra paid her fourth visit to her hospital at Highgate. The Queen was accompanied by Princess Victoria, and attended by the Hon. Charlotte Knollys and the Earl Howe.

The Hon. Surgeon in Charge, Mr. H. J. Paterson, was absent on important business, but arrived back before the Royal Party left the Hospital. They were received and conducted round the Hospital by the Matron, Miss M. C. Sinzinx, and the Sister, Miss M. Roberts. After signing the book the Queen and Princess Victoria began their round in "Princess Victoria Ward," where their entry was greeted with a rousing cheer from the patients. Under the name plate in the Ward the Princess Victoria noticed that the patients had pinned up a portrait of herself cut out of some illustrated paper, and upon the Matron tentatively suggesting that the ward deserved something better Her Royal Highness promised to send a signed photograph of herself to be hung in her ward.

Over an hour was spent in the hospital, the Royal Visitors shaking hands and conversing with every patient, enquiring after their health and the severity and extent of their wounds. Before leaving, Her Majesty presented Mr. Paterson with a gold watch as a Christmas present from herself. On the back of the watch was the late King Edward's monogram surmounted by a crown.

A day or two after the visit signed portraits of King Edward VII, Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria arrived to be hung in the Hospital.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)