

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

AT THE FRENCH FRONT IN ITALY.

Miss Alice Jane Harley Williamson has joined the French Flag Nursing Corps, and left for France on Saturday last. Miss Williamson is well known in Scotland as the Superintendent of the Training Home of the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, Edinburgh, since 1913. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, the Colinton Fever Hospital, and in district nursing, and at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, and was a member of the Colonial Nursing Association from 1909 to 1912.

Miss Williamson, therefore, is a very highly qualified nurse, holding certificates from leading training schools in general, fever, and district nursing and midwifery.

Miss Williamson is anxious, like so many patriotic women, to take part in military nursing during the great war.

Queen's Nurses attached to the three branches of the Jubilee Institute have won golden opinions in France as members of the F.F.N.C. Their district training, apparently, especially qualifies them to overcome the difficulties of initiation in a foreign land. If it were not hard upon our poor at home, we should urge more Queen's Nurses to join the Corps.

Miss Grace Ellison is still suffering from the results of her very serious illness, and after a visit to Paris and Evreux, she has returned to Bagnolles for further treatment, from which it is hoped she may benefit considerably.

Miss Ellison, when sufficiently recovered, hopes to continue to work in France, so that her many friends will not lose sight of her.

LINDSAY.—On August 8th, abroad, of broncho-pneumonia, James Basden Lindsay, Sec. Lieut., A.S.C. (late Canadian Infantry), of Edmonton, Canada, brother of M. O. Lindsay, nursing sister, 8th Canadian General Hospital, France. (Canadian and Indian papers, please copy.)

In Mr. Laurence Binyon's wonderful book "For Dauntless France," of which I have so far only seen reviews, there is, I fancy, one small sector of Britons privileged to help the French who are *not* mentioned.

Our numbers are very few. I believe we could be counted on the fingers of one hand, but our work has a charm all its own. It is so unlike anything else. A French doctor patient recently said to the present writer: "Pour vous, Mademoiselle, puisque vous avez le goût des aventures et des

langues barbares, il n'y a que vous proposer pour la Colonne Volante du Maroc!" Meanwhile there is a sufficient variety of material gathered together in this charming little Italian town (which must be nameless), and the medical section of a French ambulance provides varied and interesting work.

At first sight one would think it almost impossible to "over-take" the work, one nurse to 100 patients being quite usual, and the various wards will be tents, wooden huts, or rooms in a school, and may be scattered up and down stairs and all over the place, but the probationer work is all done by the orderlies (Infirmiers), who are also responsible for filling in the charts and diet sheets from the doctor's orders and making out dispensary,

laundry and clothing store lists, all the clerking and copying work over which we have all wasted so many hours; so that here we are really able to devote ourselves to the actual nursing and trying to make the patients comfortable and happy. They do not expect much. They and we have to do without a great deal that is taken for granted in an English hospital. Medicines are given in their ordinary tin drinking cups (or old Nestlé's milk tins), frequently preferred for the dose, with the remains of coffee or milk in them! "N'importe," says the cheerful poilu. No knives are provided in hospital, and if he has not a clasp knife of his own he borrows his neighbour's, or tears up his meat with a spoon! (The two Sisters, too, one French, one English, had only one tin plate each, one fork and one tin cup for all meals until a



MISS ALICE J. H. WILLIAMSON, F.F.N.C.

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