

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

DEVOTED SERVICE RECOGNISED.

The French Ministry has asked for the names of all the Sisters who have served in the Corps for two years and upwards, and have thus devoted themselves to the sick and wounded in military hospitals under the French medical authorities.

The French Flag Nursing Corps is the only Service of British Nurses working under the direct authority of the French War Office which throughout the war has maintained the minimum qualification of a Certificate of three years' training in general nursing, thus its members well deserve the honour which the French Government proposes to award them, the "Médaille de la Reconnaissance Française."

We have been having more compliments, and we will just repeat what an important official at Paris in the Service de Santé said:—"I do not wish to be complimentary nor yet flattering, but the Service de Santé has found the nurses of the F.F.N.C. the most satisfactory of all the nurses—English, French, or American—who have worked under its formation in point of view both of discipline and work, and should any of them care to remain on, after the signing of peace, we shall be only too pleased to place them in their various formations." Isn't that some reward for three and four years' real work, and recognition of the value of the standard of three years' general training of the members of the Corps?

We as Hon. Superintendent are specially gratified with the recognition by the Service de Santé of the value of discipline—the more especially as it has been maintained throughout the four years on duty by mutual understanding between officials and Sisters, and without the sinister support of a Serf Clause!

Several of the ambulances to which the Sisters are attached are on the march to Germany.

A Sister writes:—I wish I could describe to you the sights on the road, especially when crossing the line—terrible devastation and death—many German corpses lying just where they were killed—caught in acts of destruction and pillage.

A Sister writes from Paris: "I had not seen any mention of the 'Victory Ball' till I read my *B.J.N.* It sounds horrible. How I wish I could take some of these heartless women and dump them in some of the hospitals for the gassed cases—where the death struggles and agony of these poor stricken men will never be effaced from one's memory—or let them see the returned French and British prisoners who have crawled to the line, before they have been cleansed and fed. If they feel like dancing after such heart-rending sights, then indeed they could 'Dance on the Dead.'"

THE WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, HAMMERSMITH.

OPENING OF THE NEW NURSES' HOME.

The Abercorn Home, which is otherwise the Nurses' Home for the West London Hospital, was formally opened on Monday, November 25th. Some disappointment was felt at the unavoidable absence through illness of H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, who was to have performed the ceremony, but her place was gracefully taken by Lady Evelyn Farquhar, who, in the name of Her Royal Highness, accepted the silver key of the Home, and received the address in the recreation room before a large audience.

The Chairman, Mr. G. F. Marshall, in presenting the latter, said the Home was a memorial to their late President, the Duke of Abercorn, who had always had this scheme at heart.

Lady Evelyn then read Princess Arthur's address, in which she expressed her pleasure at being asked to perform the ceremony. From her personal knowledge she could appreciate the benefit that such a Home would be to the nurses. Since the war much attention had been drawn to the needs of this skilled body of workers.

The Prayer of Blessing was then offered by the Chaplain, the Rev. Nelson Walshe, who asked that this Home might be for the mental rest and bodily refreshment of those for whom it was provided, and that it should be used for their comfort and God's glory.

Sir William Bull said that this Home was a model of what a Nurses' Home should be, as everything had been carefully studied to give the maximum of comfort. Different sitting-rooms for various grades of nurses might appear a small matter, but a little thought would show how, if a junior nurse were comfortably toasting her toes before the fire and her senior entered the room, etiquette would oblige her to give place to her.

The Home would repay the authorities a hundred times (not in money) by making the nurses happy and comfortable.

The Chairman then moved a vote of sympathy with Princess Arthur of Connaught in her indisposition, and said he was proud to think she had seen her first surgical operation in the wards of the West London Hospital.

The visitors were then free to inspect the charming arrangements. Tea was provided in the various sitting-rooms, and organised so that there was no overcrowding.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)