

courtesies to returning Australian military nurses from active service, entertaining them and taking the greatest interest in their reports. The Australian soldiers and nurses have shown themselves fine, robust, patriotic men and women, who have won the goodwill and admiration of the people of the Empire, wherever they have come into touch with them.

Surgeon-General Fetherston is warm in his praise of the courage of Australian nurses, and has been singing their praises to their colleagues now he is home again. Owing to the guiding hand of the Nurses Associations in Australia, Dr. Fetherston said, women had been carefully and properly trained, with the result that the Australian nurses were second to none in the world. They had especially proved their merit in the war zones, where an endless list of heroic deeds had been done by them. Dr. Fetherston travelled for eight months, visiting all the main nursing centres of the Allies, and although some hospitals were remarkably fine—the finest perhaps in the world—the others were very poor, because the nurses had not been compelled to train under the best circumstances. Referring to the Spanish influenza epidemic which swept America while he was there, the General gave some helpful advice

to the nurses. The military wards were so arranged that wires were run down and across the wards, and from these sheets were dropped, thus completely isolating the individual sufferers. Perhaps nineteen out of every twenty men who entered the hospital had the simple influenza, well known to all. The twentieth, however, might have the additional infection which was fatal. One slight cough was enough to send the infection throughout the whole ward, had this method not been adopted.

While in England he had proof of the bravery of the nurses. There was an air raid, and all the bells were ringing. All the boarders in the big hotel rushed with their blankets to the cellars, all

except a party of 30 nurses. These nurses made a rush outside to see the raid! He told another story of four nurses who were to have gone to India, but the ship received a wireless to go straight to Durban, and the nurses found themselves left there. They boarded a large liner which had troops for India. While out at sea the ship caught fire in the coal bunkers, and the Chinamen became so alarmed that they refused to go on trying to put out the fire. Many of the soldiers volunteered, and 108 were badly burnt. There was only one doctor on the ship, who with these four nurses started work. One nurse gave chloroform while another tended to the burns. Appliances ran short, but the nurses used their own clothes for bandages. This heroism was typical, the General said, of the Australian nurse.



MRS. McDOUGALL.

By the courtesy of the Editor of the *Queen*, we present the portrait of Mrs. McDougall, Commanding Officer of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps (affectionately known as Fany) one of the most picturesque, as well as useful and dauntless organisations of women, other than trained nurses, who went to the assistance of our Allies in Belgium and France. In the former country the "Fany's" have worked throughout the war, and they are a recognised part of the Belgian Army, in which they rank

as soldiers. In France they also rank as *poilus*, and have been sent with their ambulances to places where no women have previously been allowed. Though only a small Corps, they have gained many honours for their bravery and disregard of danger in the service of the sick and wounded; amongst these being one M.B.E., one Legion of Honour, three Chevalier de Leopold II., twenty-six Croix de Guerre, thirteen Order of Elizabeth, five Croix Civique, and seventeen Military Medals. The Corps has certainly "made good," and established the right to render first aid, to take their ambulances right up to the firing line. When working with the British forces they rank as civilians.

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