

**FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.**

A Sister writes :—" When the whole fashionable world has been wearing Nurses' Uniform it is such a pleasure to note that Queen Mary has never done so. We like our Queen to look a Queen, and here in France her stately style is greatly admired, and her genuine interest in the sick and wounded has been an example to the whole nation. I had a delightful, mischievous, lonely boy in my ward, who was sometimes very naughty. Once after rebuking him with great dignity in my very best manner, he smilingly remarked : ' C'est la manière de la Reine d'Angleterre — tout ce qu'il y a la plus touchante.' "

A Sister sends us the following graphic account of the sad condition in the devastated districts in France where she has the privilege to be working :—

" The Comité Britannique knew what it was doing in devoting some of its money to helping the devastated regions —those returning to such *terrific* sadness and ruins ; brave people, trudging the broken routes in storm and rain, their pathetic little bundles on their arms—their all—arriving here in the midst of desolation ! They make a pilgrimage to a heap of stones, where once stood their homes. Their eyes fill with tears, quick they look up. ' Il faut du courage ! ' And on they go, seek a shelter in a dug-out, and begin to take up again the almost destroyed threads of their

broken lives—the happy, prosperous village life of before the war.

" We help them to begin. We welcome them back. We find them means of reconstructing their shelters. Furniture of the simplest, bedding, clothing, cooking utensils. All these are had for

a nominal price, or are given according to the situation of the people. Many are weary, ailing, and some really ill. We attend to them. They have suffered so much these four years, as all here have been under German domination, and only liberated since the Armistice. Four weeks ago when I arrived there were about twenty men here and one woman ; now there are 185 men, ninety women and thirty-two children, and they are coming back every day. Many are suffering from colds, bronchitis, rheumatism, debility, caused by the last years of suffering and their present damp and uncomfortable surroundings. Though there is *not a house standing*—indeed, only here and there a wall—and that from St. Quentin to Soissons, still these splendid people love their soil, their ' pays,' their France, so ardently that they willingly suffer all the hardships here (and they are really terrible) in preference to living in comfort elsewhere. Nursing is not the most important part of our work here—it is a part of all the other and various works.

" The Marquise de Noailles is wonderful, never sparing herself in the least. She gives and fully of her best—her health, her time, her help.



By courtesy of

The Gentlewoman.

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND PRINCESS MARY ENCOURAGING THE PATRIOTIC WORK OF WOMEN.**

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