

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

The French Flag Nursing Corps is to be demobilised on June 30th next, and the dozen Sisters now in France will part from their French patients with sincere regret, and, to judge from medical reports, the Sisters will be sincerely regretted. It has been a wonderful time, and a great experience to have lived through—strenuous years to look back upon with the greatest pleasure and profit whatever the future holds. Most of the Sisters have given all of health and strength they possess for the time being, and well deserve rest and recreation when they return to England; but it is wonderful what a hold "France" seems to get of the heart, and how doubtful many Sisters are of finding work at home quite as interesting. "This great responsibility, and closeness with tragedy, seem to have started one off growing again," One Sister writes. "I really am a bigger person, humanly speaking, if not physically. Living a life of routine before the war, I was shrivelling some, as the Americans say. . . . I do hope things will be a bit brighter for Nurses in England in future—it is very difficult not to shrivel on £30 a year. I am glad the price of Sisters is going up, so that we may use the money to water our roots a bit, and not live in such little narrow allotments."

The Sisters who are working in the devastated districts are finding themselves very usefully employed, especially in the villages. "It is quite pitiful to see the devastation. The villages are a mass of ruins, and one wonders at the pluck of the people who have come back to live under such con-

ditions, far away from a doctor, and with no comforts or necessaries except what the Comité Britannique give them. To-day we went to V— and the Adjoint du Maire, formerly the possessor of a big house and garden, insisted on our seeing his room. It is the horse's stable, and there he and three of his family live and sleep."



MISS B. G. ALEXANDER, R.R.C.,
MATRON, GENERAL HOSPITAL, JOHANNESBURG.

as the "Golden City." She is also Hon. General Secretary of the South African Trained Nurses' Association. During the war, Miss Alexander was Matron on the hospital ship, *Abani*, during the campaign in German South-West Africa, and was one of the first British ladies to enter the conquered capital, Windhuk.

What an example to our people in England, who have suffered so few hardships during this war. Sometimes we wonder if they at all realise how grateful they ought to be to the wonderful French people, and to our own noble soldiers who shared their heartrending suffering. All Peace pageants should reflect the glory of the dead and wounded; all the honours of Peace belong to them and their companions in arms. Let the "civvies" make way for the heroes who took the risks, in every form of thanksgiving.

Sister Maize is "deeply grateful for the sweet opportunity that has enabled us to remain several months longer with our Poilus after the signing of the Armistice. Our number is dropping off little by little, and many a final handshake has taken place."

Miss B. G. Alexander, recently decorated with the Royal Red Cross, First Class, by the King at Buckingham Palace, is Matron of the General Hospital, Johannesburg, known in South Africa

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