

And on November 23rd I wrote :—

" We are very busy trying to get this hospital into shape [the letter goes on]. I can't describe to you the state of the men, it would make you feel too sick. The Americans seemed to have been singled out lately for the worst treatment. One American I saw yesterday with a broken thigh had been wounded five weeks ago and was not yet operated on. The German doctor had made an extension on the leg by running a common nail through and behind the ankle and pulling on it with string. The string was made of paper and had broken, and when I saw him the two ends of the thigh-bone were protruding through the skin. That is only one amongst a hundred pitiful cases. One feels the Boche never *will* be able to answer for such things as these."

The reader can imagine what a wonderful reception we got from the Tommies and Poilus in that dreadful place. Whenever I had a moment I used to go and visit the wards in which I know there were British patients, and I never shall forget the delightful welcome I had from those men. Murmurs of "An English sister" used to run all down the big, dark wards, and immediately, as if by magic, a dozen heads would appear, and a dozen grubby hands stretch out in warmest welcome. Then always the next question, which I soon began to know by heart, "When do you think we shall get to Blighty?" It was three long weeks before we managed to get them all evacuated, owing to the great difficulty of transport and also because many of them were too ill and weak to move when we arrived. I think I shall never see men so utterly and absolutely happy as those Tommies the day they were laid on British stretchers and carried down to the British ambulance cars by British orderlies. For they knew at last, at long last, that their sufferings were at an end, that they were prisoners no longer, and above all that they were on the road to "Blighty"!

The article should be read in its entirety, and indeed the *Englishwoman* this month has several articles of great interest and literary merit, notably, "Poor Law and its Passing," by M. Paige Wood, and "On a Kerry Road," by the Countess of Kenmare.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The Joint War Committee has endowed 30 beds out of a total of 50 at the Endsleigh Palace Hospital for Officers, in recognition of the services rendered to the Empire by sailors in the Great War, and to provide immediate medical treatment for those sailors and soldiers who have contracted tropical diseases while on active service. The hospital has been acquired by the Seamen's Hospital Society, which has taken an active part in the advancement of the study of tropical diseases, of which the London School of Tropical Medicine is a branch.

NURSING ECHOES.

It seems to be taken for granted that the Order of Merit, which has been conferred by the King on the Prime Minister, in recognition of his pre-eminent services in carrying the war to a victorious end and in securing an honourable peace, was instituted by King Edward VII. as a special distinction for illustrious men. It is therefore well to emphasise the fact that one of the early members of the Order was our own Florence Nightingale, and that no name on the distinguished Roll of Members is more illustrious, or has added greater lustre to it.

Among those who have been sent back to their native land is, the *Daily Sketch* learns, Theodolinda Paster, who was acting as a German Red Cross nurse. This woman was attractive, and of an influential family in Germany, and was well known in the Fatherland as a passionate patriot. When war broke out she joined the Red Cross for Germany, in which capacity she did a great deal of good. But her love for her country led her to abuse the sacredness of her position as nurse, and she did things which made her suspected as a spy. These acts were committed in the East. She fell into English hands, and eventually reached England, where she was interned at Holloway Prison for a considerable time.

It is well for this "patriot" that she fell into British hands. Had the nationalities been reversed the tale would not have ended with repatriation.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board have adopted the report of the General Purposes Committee based on the terms of a report from a Joint Conciliation Committee of Asylum authorities and their staffs, after conference with the General Secretary of the National Asylum Workers' Union, and signed by the Chairman of the Board, the Deputy Clerk, and the General Secretary of the National Asylum Workers' Union. These recommendations proposed the adoption by the Board for its asylum employees of a sixty hours' working week, inclusive of meal times—which are to be ten hours a week—and fourteen days' leave every six months. It is proposed that members of the Asylum Nursing Staff shall be instructed in the care of mental patients with a view to their obtaining recognised diplomas of efficiency, and that the name "attendant" shall disappear. That, on admission to the asylum nursing staff employees shall rank as probationers, who on obtaining a recognised diploma

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