

Sister Sutton writes:—"The enclosures may interest you. Our work is interesting and intensely absorbing. It is heavy and difficult at times, but we are very happy, and we have the great satisfaction of knowing that our efforts are appreciated." F.F.N.C. Sisters always add nice, kind little messages *not* for the public eye.

Mrs. Alfred Paine, of Bedford is most kindly sending the F.F.N.C. Sisters working in France for the Comité Britannique, C.R.F., a Christmas gift of soft slippers for the use of their patients—everything comes in handy in the devastated districts, and Mrs. Paine has kept a generous eye upon the needs of the sick and wounded in France, and supplied them with many comforts during the war. Under her supervision, 41,360 pairs of most comfortable slippers have been supplied for hospital use during the war. Now the last of the stock is to be distributed to make room for the garments made for the use of the poor in Bedford, a good work carried on by Mrs. Paine for many years.

FROM ITALY.

The Countess Winifred Terni de Gregory, President of the National Association of Italian Nurses has, at their request, already been put in touch with Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, as they are anxious to communicate with their colleagues through this great organisation. The Countess writes:—

"I am following with the greatest interest the acute crisis in nursing affairs in England. As far as I can gather (if you will permit an ignoramus to express an opinion) the trouble seems to be that the Hospitals require more probationers to do hard work for them than they can find places for as nurses, therefore the profession gets overstocked; there are more private nurses than there are patients able and willing to pay a proper price for their nurses. It therefore seems to me that the nurses training should be altered so as to contain much less drudgery and more science. Hospitals must not, in the future, be allowed to get their housework done by probationers.

Also V.A.D.s and half-trained people should be prevented by *law* from practising *for money*.

As, however, in times of war and epidemics the supply of trained nurses must always be insufficient, the V.A.D.s should be kept up and carefully organised, and some fields of work reserved to them so as to keep them in training. These are the principles I am trying to rub in here. Please excuse me holding forth."

Now that war is over and international sympathy needs stimulating, the more public-spirited people "hold forth" for the good of the profession and the world in general, the better.

"Sir Victor Horsley: A Study of His Life and Work," by Stephen Paget, will be eagerly read by nurses whose valiant ally he was in life. Needless to say it is a fine literary work.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

If everyone enjoying the good things of this world—and good health is the greatest blessing—would of their superfluity, or self-denial, send gifts to their local hospitals, we can assure them their money would bring good value. First of all, a donation in cash for the upkeep of the hospital, and if purses permit, gifts in kind for the patients and staff. It is an unwritten rule that the secretarial, medical and nursing staffs, render services for which no payment can be received direct from the patients—and this is a wise rule—but we once helped to unpack a hamper from a generous governor, a sort of "remembrance" surprise packet in which was found a personal Christmas gift for hard-working officials as well as for the impersonal banking account. "A Surrey capon for Matron" (and didn't we just enjoy it); "a brace of pheasants and a hare for the Secretary and Mrs. Secretary"; "a turkey for the Steward," and all sorts of good things for the nurses, of which fresh and crystallised fruits appeared in high favour. This of course was in the good old times, long before the war when goodwill abounded, purses were full, and the best of fare was cheap. In these days the new rich are very rich; let them remember the needs of those less fortunate, and make themselves really happy by helping to make others so.

A FEW CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO HOSPITALS.

Guy's Hospital, the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, have each received a gift of £20,000.

The Women's Welcome Gift, presented to the Prince of Wales in support of the Middlesex Hospital at a dinner he attended on Tuesday last, amounted to £7,500, which, added to £45,273 raised at the dinner, makes £52,772 towards the sum of £200,000 required.

Among the public bequests of the late Mr. Tredence, of 116, Harley Street, were £1,000 for Middlesex Hospital, and £1,000 for St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Sir John Leigh, Bt., has given Mrs Lloyd George the sum of £5,500 to be used for hospital work in Carnarvonshire. £5,000 will go to the Llandudno Hospital for an endowment, and £250 each, as donations, to the Bangor and Carnarvon Hospitals.

The surplus of £3,000 from the Thames Pageant held last August 4th, has been allocated to seamen's hospitals at London, Liverpool, and Marseilles.

Mrs. Eliza Avins has left £7,500 to Birmingham hospitals, and Mr. John Scott £6,500 to Wolverhampton hospitals.

Mr. Henry Clay Frick, of New York, Andrew Carnegie's partner, left £24,000,000 to charitable and educational institutions. The Pittsburg Mercy Hospital gets five million dollars and the New York Lying-in Hospital one million five hundred thousand dollars.

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