

MISS ALICE FITZGERALD, R.N.

CHIEF NURSE OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES.

Miss Alice Fitzgerald, R.N., has been appointed Chief Nurse of the League of Red Cross Societies, a very high honour and well deserved.

Miss Fitzgerald was trained at the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, U.S.A., and was graduated from that celebrated Nursing School in 1906, and her professional career is a very honourable one.

After training she was placed in charge of private wards and the dispensary at Johns Hopkins. Later she served as Operating-room Nurse at the Bellevue Hospital, New York, and was later Superintendent of Nurses, City Hospital, Wilkes Barre, and of Robert Long Hospital, University of Indiana.

In 1916 Miss Fitzgerald was sent overseas as the Edith Cavell Memorial Nurse by a group of prominent Bostonians, where she served with the British Expeditionary Force; she resigned to become affiliated with the American Red Cross, and was assigned from the Paris office to Italy in December, 1917.

She was placed in charge of the Red Cross Division of Nursing under the Service de Santé of the French Government, in which she had charge of all the American nurses working in French hospitals. The plan was to send one graduate and one French-speaking Nurse's Aid into the French hospitals to nurse American wounded. Miss Fitzgerald made over one hundred supervising trips in all parts of France. She was appointed Chief Nurse American Red Cross Commission to Europe in May, 1919, and Chief Nurse of the Red Cross Societies in October, 1919.

As the Department of Nursing of the American Red Cross—of which Miss Clara D. Noyes, R.N., is Director, and which has National Headquarters at Washington, D.C., is the model on which other nations should form themselves, it is not surprising that American nurses have been selected for both the Chair (Miss Julia C. Stimson) of the Committee on Nursing at the Cannes Conference

last year, which drew up useful recommendations—and as Head of the League of Red Cross Societies which has recently been in Session in Geneva.

Miss G. Cowlin, Graduate St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, has been appointed assistant director of the Nursing Department of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The Americans have units of the Red Cross in Poland and the Balkans, and recently Miss Fitzgerald completed a tour of inspection through Poland, where she was everywhere convinced of the need of teaching skilled nursing methods, and of American nurses to teach Polish attendants and nurses. Very interesting letters on the subject appear in Feheman's issue of the *American Journal of Nursing*.



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Miss Fitzgerald, in a communication to her *Alumnæ* magazine, states that the purpose of the League is to utilise that which already exists, and help in every way to develop Red Cross Societies, and to act as a clearing house for information of all kinds along public health lines. The League is composed of three main departments—first, the Department of Development; the Medical Department, including nursing, and the Department of Relief. The Medical Department is planning to have fourteen divisions—Child Welfare, Sanitation, Tuberculosis, Nursing, Vital Statistics, Information, Publicity, Secretarial, Demonstration, and Laboratory, Library, Museum, Industrial Hygiene, Venereal and Miscellaneous Com-

municable Diseases. Each one of these has a Chief and as many assistants as necessary.

Miss Fitzgerald, has issued a simple *questionnaire*. The information received will be tabulated and issued in pamphlet form to the different Red Cross Associations. This time next year it is hoped to show good results.

There's a balm for crippled spirits
In the open view,
Running from your very footsteps,
Out into the blue,
Like a wagon track to heaven
Straight 'twixt God and you.

PERCIVAL GIBBON.

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