

IMPRESSIONS OF THE BRITISH LEGION PILGRIMAGE TO THE BATTLEFIELDS OF FRANCE.

As it was my privilege to be one of the 11,000 Pilgrims who journeyed to the battlefields of France in August last I have tried to set down my impressions of those never-to-be-forgotten days.

Regarding the central organisation, I considered it perfectly marvellous. All trains and boats were to time, with no rush on either side. The catering was splendid, and the wonderful reception on arriving at Roubaix spoke of the intense gratitude of its inhabitants.

All ex-Service women proceeded to the Cercle de l'Industrie, where a very hearty welcome, and dinner, awaited us. We were then given our separate billet slips, and told that cars would convey us all at 10 o'clock to our respective billets. I think most of us went to the College de Marcq, where we found most comfortable beds.

On August 6th we had to leave our billets at 7.30 a.m. for the Cercle de l'Industrie, where an English breakfast was provided. (It is a beautiful club and the whole of it was given up for our use until Thursday, August 9th.) After breakfast, we assembled in companies, and marched to the station, where trains awaited us for Beaucourt. Arriving there, we had each to pick up a luncheon box, containing food for the way (and an excellent repast it was too). I felt grieved to see how the wayside was littered with *débris* when it was so easy to place all remains in the box and leave things tidy. I went with a party to Newfoundland Park, where there are many sacred spots where our officers and men fell. Forty-six were buried in a shell hole, and their small head stones form a crown round the top. Here the British front line is seen, and many terrible weapons still lie around—one was always coming in contact with barbed wire and shells. On August 7th we all went to Vimy, picking up our luncheon again at the station. We walked to the Ridge, Lady Haig with us. We sat down there for a while, afterwards going on to Grange Trench, where the German and Canadian trenches met; they have now been concreted and a new road is being constructed for conveying material for building the great National Memorial; even now the work done impresses one.

I noticed a poor old mother toiling up the Ridge, and went and asked her if I should try to get her a seat in a char-a-banc, for it was very hot and there was about a mile further to go, also many young people, who could have walked, took up the seats; but she pathetically replied, "I want to tread over all the path my son last trod."

The cemeteries at "Petit Vimy," and in fact, all the cemeteries we passed, were most beautifully kept, and many had sweet little rose bushes on every grave.

On the 8th, of course, the greatest day of Ceremony, when the Pilgrims at the Menin Gate included our own Prince of Wales and Prince Leopold of Belgium, we had to make an early start. We left our billets at 5.30 a.m.; after breakfasting at the club, we again marched to the station, and on arriving at Ypres we marched to the Ecole Filles, where a second breakfast was provided, and we rested for an hour, after which we were told to take up our position for the great march to Menin Gate for the Service. Here W.A.A.C.s and V.A.D.s took up the front, regardless of company or sections, whereupon two or three members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and the Territorial Force Nursing Service tried to get a few of their number—more than one of whom wore the Mons Medal—nearer the front ranks. Although we did get a few forward, many were behind

W.A.A.C.s, who (judging by their age) could only have come in to war work at the last hour, and simply regarded the Pilgrimage as a joy ride, without any understanding. It is incredible that within sight of that glorious Shrine when others felt that they were approaching holy ground, they started singing "Tipperary." However, they did respond to a "hush." We stood on the banks of the moat for the Service, which was most impressive, and the clear rich voice of Dr. Lang, Archbishop-designate of Canterbury, must have been heard by all. After the singing of "O God, our help in ages past," came the "Last Post" most exquisitely played by four trumpeters, and "Flowers of the Forest" by the pipers; then came the great march past, with leaders placing wreaths under the arch of Menin Gate. Mothers and sisters of relations went first, followed up by ex-Service women, when, apparently, many Army sisters were recognised, and the cheers that went up were tremendous.

We returned to the schools for lunch, after which we had time to look round Ypres, and see how quickly its inhabitants are rebuilding their beautiful Cathedral—directly at the back of the ruins. It was really great to see how hard they must have worked to rebuild as much as they have done, and altogether it was a most instructive expedition, and I hope many more will have the opportunity of going another year, but there must be someone to organise the Nursing Service with understanding and discrimination.

After all, we gave up many years to training and service of the sick before considering ourselves worthy or efficient to nurse our wounded, and why should we take a lower rank now? A colonel does not walk behind his orderly.

E. EDITH FOWLER.

LIGHT AND HEAT IN MEDICINE.

Second International Conference and Exhibition.

The Second International Conference on Light and Heat in Medicine, Surgery and Public Health, will be held in London from 29th October, to 1st November, 1928, when the most prominent place will again be given to the increasingly important subject of ultra-violet radiation ("artificial sunlight").

The Conference will be held in the University of London, South Kensington, S.W.7. It will be led and supported by an even greater number of distinguished British and foreign authorities than that in 1927. The subject will be discussed both from its therapeutic and scientific aspects, and it is hoped to arrange visits to representative clinics where the most modern methods of utilising light and heat for therapeutic purposes will be seen.

Simultaneously with the Conference, a very comprehensive Exhibition of the most up-to-date apparatus and accessories for ultra-violet, radiant heat, and allied forms of therapy, will be held in the Great Hall of the University, adjoining the Conference Hall. The Exhibition will comprise interesting exhibits by learned societies and institutions.

Members of the Nursing and Massage professions, and all professionally interested in Maternity and Child Welfare are specially invited to this Conference and Exhibition which will give them an opportunity of hearing the latest and most authoritative opinions on a subject of such importance to them, as well as of seeing under one roof all the most up-to-date apparatus and accessories. Reduced rail fares (fare and one-third for return journey) will be obtainable in England and Scotland for those attending the Conference, on presentation of the necessary voucher.

The Conference and Exhibition are again being organised by the *British Journal of Actinotherapy* (17, Featherstone Buildings, London, W.C.1.), who will send all available details on request.

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