

THE BELGIAN QUEEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

too busy. A professor formerly of one of the Brussels universities gave her special individual instruction in the anatomy of the brain, and Colonel Depage instructed her in the dressing of wounds, at which she became quite proficient.

On special occasions she made rounds of the wards with her attendants distributing gifts and shaking hands with all the wounded soldiers. On one of these occasions the writer was presented to her and was privileged to hold a short conversation with her in which she asked a few questions in a modest manner and in perfect English. One never spoke to the Queen or King until first addressed.

The modest democratic manner of the Queen was always evident but is especially shown by an incident which occurred during the early days of the war.

Her majesty had been visiting her children in England and had occasion to employ an American dentist in London. She was evidently much pleased with his work for he was subsequently asked to come to La Panne to do some work for the King. When he arrived there he recognized the woman whom he had treated in London and was amazed and embarrassed when he learned that she was the Queen.

The Royal pavilion of the hospital, known as "Pavilion Albert-Elizabeth," where the American surgeons worked, had three wards named after the three

royal children, and it was here that the Queen's interest was most centered. Her visits were usually made in the mornings and when she was announced the operating and dressing rooms were cleared and all work stopped. Colonel Depage always accompanied her and assisted with the dressings and no one else stayed in the room except a nurse to handle the gauze and instruments. Through the Queen's influence the hospital lacked nothing in equipment. Any modern metropolitan hospital was not more complete than this. Yet it was built in standard sections in such a way that, except for the five-story summer hotel which served as a nucleus, it could be taken down and moved wherever necessary.

In later years there will be many a Belgian veteran who will tell of the time when the Queen dressed his wounds and in Belgium free and restored when the royal family again in Brussels the people will recall with pride the simple devotion of their queen.

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The railroads were tied up with the worst freight glut in history. "Get me something so that I can figure out when I will get to New York," he commanded. "Yes, sah, I'll get you a timetable." "Time-table? Time-table? What I had three wards named after the three want is a calendar."

IN THE CANTEN



The hospital patients all have their favorite drinks, but they like to hear the bartender make his little "spiel."

THE ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

The London Illustrated News, one of the finest war reviews issued, has been subscribed for by the base hospital library, and is now on the table for public perusal.



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