FINDING THEMSELVES, THE LETTERS OF AN AMERICAN ARMY CHIEF NURSE IN A BRITISH HOSPITAL IN FRANCE. [NEW YORK-1927]

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Finding Themselves, the Letters of an American Army Chief Nurse in a British Hospital in France. [New York-1927] by Julia C. Stimson

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JULIA C. STIMSON

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From the photograph for her passport, May, 1917.

FINDING THEMSELVES

The Letters of an American Army Chief Nurse in a British Hospital in France

BY

JULIA C. STIMSON, M.A., R.N.

Superintendent of Arm's Nurse Corps, United States Arm's Formerly Chief Nurse, Babe Hospital 21 (St. Louis), U. S. A. (No. 12 General Hospital B. E. F.)

Later Director Nursing Survice, A. E. F.

"Now God be thanked who has matched us with His hour And caught our youth, and wakened us from sleeping."

- RUPERT BROOKE.

LESSANIA

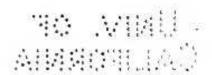
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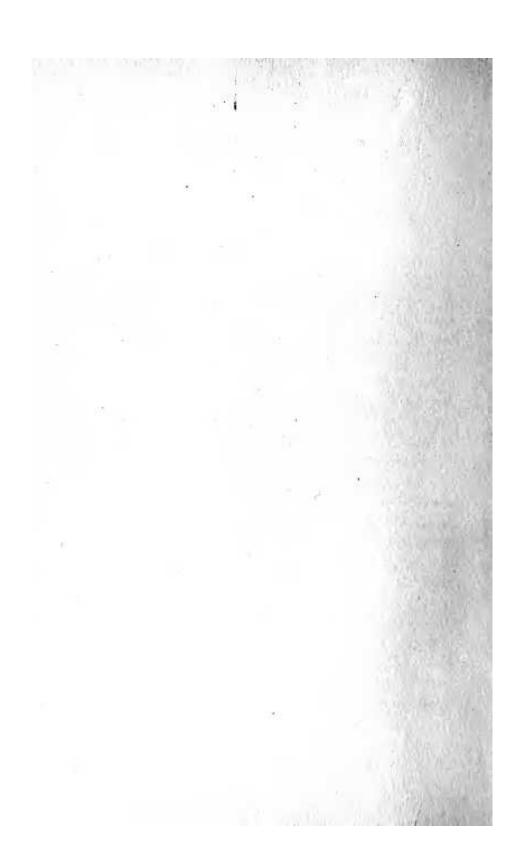
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Bedicated

TO ALL MY MAJORS
WHOSE KIND HELPFULNESS
WAS NEVER FAILING



NOTE

These letters were written as the daily record of the work of a Unit of Red Cross nurses who were sent to France in May, 1917, in response to the request of the British authorities. The Unit, almost immediately after its arrival in England, was sent across the Channel to take over a British Base Hospital established on a race course, where they have cared continuously for a stream of from eight hundred to two thousand wounded "Tommies" at a time.

The original sixty-five American nurses were assisted for several months by English Volunteer Aids, and when these were withdrawn, they were reënforced with some thirty American nurses.

Though written with no thought of publication, as the war lengthens out, these letters have become of especial value as the record of first impressions and experiences which for those concerned were startlingly new. Since then much has been happening of tremendous significance both to the participants and to the world, but the events recorded here have not lost their interest, viii NOTE

nor has their graphic character been blunted, by recent occurrences. Hence, though the initial purpose of printing these letters was to furnish this group of women with a permanent story of their devoted service, it has been suggested that the letters have a much wider interest, and they have therefore been given for publication by Miss Stimson's family.

HENRY A. STIMSON Pastor emeritus, Manhattan Congregational Church.

New York, June, 1918.