

**88 BIS AND V.I.H.:
LETTERS FROM
TWO HOSPITALS**

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88 Bis and V.I.H.: Letters from Two Hospitals by Katharine Foote

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KATHARINE FOOTE

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TWO HOSPITALS**

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LETTERS FROM TWO
HOSPITALS

BY

AN AMERICAN V.A.D.

(*Katharine Foote,
daughter of
Arthur Foote, '74.*)



THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS
BOSTON
1919

I DEDICATE THESE LETTERS TO
MY DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER,
TO WHOM THEY WERE WRITTEN

*"And of these, many are gone, to join
a radiant band, whose hope is in us."*

**AU COUVENT DE L'ADORATION
PERPETUELLE**

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LETTERS FROM TWO HOSPITALS

HÔTEL DE CRILLON, PARIS,

January 14, 1917.

HERE we are in a gray, rainy Paris. The train was an hour and a half late last night; we had missed the morning one on account of delay in the examination of our luggage at Havre, or we should have come with Mr. Simonds. The examination was not troublesome, but that was only because of Helen's papers being so good, and that we were travelling with Mr. Simonds. Traveling is every bit as difficult as people say, but one cannot expect it to be otherwise when one hears of the things that happen that should n't.

After writing you at Havre, I spent the beautiful sunny morning walking about the town. As I wrote to J—, his gold has been given to the big hospital which was made out of the Hôtel Frascati. It has, of course, wonderful exposure to sunlight and air, and seems splendidly run. The *médecin-chef* was sympathetic, and his wife too, who works there all the time. They seemed greatly touched at this gift from the distant J—, and interested to know about him, and if he had ever been in France.

I did n't stay long, as motors were arriving, large numbers of them, filled with poor, weary, suffering wounded. No amount of reading or imagination prepares one for the sight of wounded from the front. One cannot describe it; one must see it to feel it. Apart from the suffering, one's principal impression is that one has *never* seen so