

Miss S. S. Francis.
A.A.N.S.

28.

I left Australia on the "Karmala" on the 14th September, 1916, as a passenger. We had no sickness, and after an uneventful voyage we arrived at Bombay on October, 11th. We stayed at the Great Western Hotel for a week and then went on duty at the "Freeman Thomas" English Hospital. We were 13 Australian Sisters, and the rest of the Staff were English and Indian trained Sisters, and we all worked together amicably. The first Matron was very nice, but we did not get on with the second very well. The cases were mixed medical, malaria, dysentery, and yellow fever. I did not do any surgical work until after the Bhagdad Stunt.

The heat was most oppressive and we felt it very much. We were very comfortably quartered, and the food was quite fair on the whole. We got a lot of curries etc. but we did not fare so badly. We made our own amusements, which were not many.

After that we moved to Poonah and I was there until September, 1918. The Hospital was half composed of huts and there was one main building, which in pre-War days was an Agricultural College. Our rooms were very hot, as they were made of iron, and the electric fans did not make any difference unless previously turned on to a wet sheet.

At one time, we had fifteen deaths from Cholera, and for some time we were not allowed meat or salads, and the butter was even boiled. It was a standing order in the Hospital for one to report at once, on feeling any pains. We were members of the Poonah Gymkhana.

We came to Egypt in September, 1918, and I was attached to the English Hospital at Abbassia, the 27th General. Here we took in Tommies, New Zealanders, and Palestine Jews, who were fighting at the last. They were mostly influenza cases, and the patients died in great numbers, and all treatment seemed hopeless. I was there for 3 months, and then I came to England, and after furlough was sent to No. 3 A.A.H., Dartford, where I was put in the influenza ward. Most of the patients here are awaiting transport to Australia.
