



MISS ETHEL STEPHENS,
ARTIST, AND A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY
WHICH HAS DONE SO MUCH TO ENCOURAGE AND MAINTAIN
A HIGH STANDARD OF ART.

DR. ISABEL ORMISTON.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

FACED ENEMY AT HER POST.

Mentioned in despatches! What glory for an Australian woman. And when it is added "for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty," the countrywomen of Dr. Isabel Ormiston will feel prouder still of her.

Dr. Ormiston seems to have been determined to tend the wounded in war, for before the international conflict, and when civil war threatened Ireland, she offered her services to the Ulster people. Soon, however, the world conflict broke out, and after busy-ing herself with Red Cross work in London she was at the end of September offered the post of medical superintendent at the Ostend Kursaal, a fashionable hydro, which had been quickly transformed into a hospital. Here she and her colleagues were in such demand that they several times tended the wounded for twenty consecutive hours without any respite.

One morning at 3 o'clock an official rushed into the Kursaal with the news that the Germans were approaching, and that all the wounded must embark for England. Panic seized the inmates of the hospital. Men with broken legs jumped out of bed and demanded to be clothed, but unfortunately there were not sufficient garments to go round, and many of the wounded went away enveloped in blankets.

The hospital staff—with the exception of the matron (Mme. Patton-Bethune, of the Clayton Priory, Burgess Hill, Sussex), Dr. Ormiston, and Dr. Emile van de Watten—fled into Holland. These three stayed on, tending the wounded who had been too ill to take part in the flight. It was for this act of bravery and devotion to duty that they were reported to the Belgian Government.

They watched the entry into Ostend of 70,000 of the enemy, which they describe as a most imposing sight, and they were treated with all consideration and respect, even when a British warship opened fire on the Ostend Hotel. Dr. Ormiston saw the action from her balcony window, though the German officers tried to persuade her to withdraw. The gun which was returning the British fire was immediately beneath her.

"If I am to be killed," she answered, "I should prefer death in the open than that of being crushed in a demolished building."

After two weeks the Germans decided that the Britishers in Ostend were assisting the English in the bombardment, and so packed them off to Holland. Dr. Ormiston from there returned to London, whence, having collected funds, motor cars, and anything she could lay her hands on, she returned to Europe to take up duties at the Queen of the Belgians' Hospital, five miles from the firing line.

Here she came in personal contact with King Albert and his wife, whose sympathy she describes as being beautiful. This hospital held the wounded of all nations, and their gratitude for the care given them has been touching. Many of them still write to Dr. Ormiston from the trenches.

One day the Belgian Queen asked a man

who had had both legs fractured whether he was still in pain. "Oh, no," he answered simply, "since la petite docteresse has touched them they are well." The King was as sympathetic as his wife, and Dr. Ormiston saw him one day standing with his eyes full of tears at the bedside of a child who had had both feet blown off by a bursting shell.

Dr. Isabel Ormiston took the medical course at Sydney University. She became Medical Inspector of Schools in Tasmania about four years ago, and was on leave of absence for the purpose of doing hospital work in England when war broke out. The latest news of her, which came by cable on April 23, an-



Dr. Isabel Ormiston,

An Australian, who has been mentioned in despatches to the Belgian Government for bravery and devotion to duty.

nounced that she was being sent by the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee to one of their hospitals in Montenegro. We shall no doubt have further cause for pride in this fine Australian woman.