member had admired the embroidery on it. The Mayor of Luzanne on All Saints Day made a little address in the Park in one corner of which are some American soldiers buried, and these graves are kept in good order by the children of the town who put flowers on them on every Sunday. All the townspeople and the people from nearby came to hear the Mayor’s address; all of the unit were present and in his address the Mayor expressed his great admiration for the work which the American soldiers had done, spoke of the great rapidity of the execution of the work and of the work of the American women physicians, expressing his appreciation in the most beautiful language, peculiar to the French. The French children struck me as being the most polite children I ever have seen in my life. When they had an adenoid and tonsil operation they thanked you when they got on the table and when they got off.

Our future work is to be in Serbia. We have now money enough for a hospital there and we hope to have this started in July.

WOMEN’S OVERSEAS UNIT

DR. MARIE K. FORMAD

It gives me great pleasure to be back home again among you. Our unit was under the direction of the Woman’s Suffrage Association, and was termed Women’s Overseas Hospital. There were three units; we were the first. We sent a subsequent unit to take charge of a gas hospital, but unfortunately it came too late, after the Armistice was signed. Then there was a third unit to do work among the civilians. I went over there in February, 1918. We had a personnel of about twenty: three trained nurses; six aides and a woman carpenter, a woman electrician and a chauffeur. Before leaving we received a cable that the Germans had advanced so far that we could not go to our appointed destination. We were directed to go ahead any way, and we arrived in Paris in due time. Crossing the ocean in war time was not a very pleasant experience, as it was a sort of perilous journey. When we arrived in Paris they were having air raids every night, and during the day the long-range guns were fired every fifteen minutes in the morning, when they thought the people were on their way to work, at noon hour and at evening, when it was thought the streets would be mostly crowded. Many people were killed in the streets.
We stayed in Paris four weeks, during which time Dr. Findley, director of the unit, had quite a difficult time to find another appointment for us, because of the advance of the Germans. Finally, we had an appointment to go to a military evacuation hospital. Half of the unit was to go there and the other half to the south, near Bordeaux, to open a hospital for refugees. On our way we met an endless stream of these coming toward Paris, walking, pushing baby carriages, driving donkey carts and taking with them everything they could carry—old men, women and children were in the crowds. It was a most pathetic sight. When we arrived at our destination we found the building to be a large château transformed into a hospital. The lower floor had been made into wards. On the large and beautiful lawn had been erected perhaps 50 barracks, constituting a 3000-bed hospital. We had no patients, but the second night we were awakened by the arrival of 500 wounded soldiers, right from the battlefield who had only received first aid dressing. We had not a thing to work with as the hospital had not yet been completed, but the ambulance drivers refused to take the men anywhere else, saying they had been driving around since three o’clock in the afternoon. So we took them in and did the best we could, of course. It was a very sad experience. We had the most seriously injured soldiers and the most patient men. I suppose our own soldiers were the same. All we could do was to dress their wounds and put them to bed, giving them what little nourishment we had in the shape of beef tea. The French love the herb tea, and asked for it all the time. They were so exhausted from pain and weariness that they soon fell asleep. The next day the surgeons started to operate; only one set of surgeons was there. I must say that the French surgeons are really wonderful; they are very quick and do very good surgery. The fracture cases were mostly sent away to the other hospitals, because this one was not quite ready. The most serious cases were attended to there, like amputations, head injuries, etc. They did the guillotine amputation without flap, simply cutting off the limb as quickly as possible, to prevent infection, and tying the blood vessels. Of course, they use iodin as a disinfectant for the skin, then amputate and tie the vessels and dress with ether, putting on the stump a lot of flimsy gauze saturated with ether, dressing with cotton and bandage. The ether prevents infection. In two or three days, when the bandage was removed, the wound was perfectly clean. As soon as the patients recovered from the shock of operation they were sent off to a base hospital and new patients were brought in. In a very few days the barracks were ready and the wards in the palace were all occupied by patients. That was the military experience
of the unit. From there I went to Labouheyre, where I worked in a barracks hospital erected by the French and furnished by the Woman’s Suffrage Association. The French had the barracks erected on the grounds of the mayor and built by German prisoners. There we had a hospital of 110 beds for military and civilian work. The civilian part was finished first because of the greater need; it was filled in a very short time with people from the dispensaries which we had held. There were 10,000 refugees in the district of Laudes. In several parts we had French and in some, Serbians. We went daily for our dispensary work and brought home with us ambulances full of patients for operations. It is remarkable to see the confidence the French have in us women physicians, considering that they have so few. We had no difficulty whatever in getting a woman to consent to operation for herself or children. The dispensaries were quite large, and a whole day was required to go through one and get back before dark. We did the operative work in the afternoons and on Saturdays. We had a large number of accident cases in our little village, because there were three factories there, an iron foundary and a good many mills. We had fractures and dislocations. I remember one hip-joint dislocation; there were all sorts of tuberculous joints requiring amputation. Tuberculosis and all the diseases arising from it were very prevalent. We had the dreadful epidemic of influenza, as you had here, and we lost a great many patients. They came so very late for treatment, when almost moribund. I have here some pictures of my hospital and the château where we started our work.

Dr. Formad’s hospital in France