

A FEW moments after the boom of a gun had announced that the train conveying the Queen had arrived at the little station of Netley a tremendous outburst of cheering announced that Her Majesty was approaching the hospital. She was received by the principal members of the medical staff, and Miss Norman, superintendent of the Army Nursing Service, who wore the Order of the Royal Red Cross. Her Majesty was accompanied by Princess Christian, Princess Henry of Battenberg, and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, and the Royal party exhibited the keenest interest in the patients, as well as in the nursing details. The Queen, who was wheeled from ward to ward, asked many questions as to the condition of the patients, and expressed many kindly wishes for their welfare.

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THE most interesting episode in the visit was, without doubt, the decoration by Her Majesty of the two heroes of Dargai, Piper Findlater, and Private Vickery, with the Victoria Cross. The scene was a most impressive one. Sir John McNeill, who himself wore the coveted decoration, read out the despatches in which the two men were recommended for the honour. Then the Queen addressed a few words to each of the men, and then Findlater being unable to rise, Her Majesty standing up in her chair, fastened the cross to his coat, while Vickery stooped while his Sovereign affixed the decoration. One cannot doubt that the moment was one of supreme happiness and pride to both men, and their comrades generally must rejoice in the honour which has been conferred upon them, and in the valour which has brought distinction upon the regiments to which they belong.

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THE hour allowed by the Queen for her visit passed all too quickly, and eventually Her Majesty delayed her departure for half an hour. It was nearly six o'clock before she left the hospital amid the cheers of the assembled crowd, and a red letter day in the annals of Netley came to an end, having been from first to last a splendid success.

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DURING the past week Miss Florence Nightingale has had a birthday—may she have many more.

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THE day looked forward to, for so long, by those interested in the Midwives' Bill has passed and gone. It was a foregone conclusion that it should be taken by the Government for "business of national importance," in other words for the discussion of the affairs of the enfranchised.

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WE are glad to observe that in reply to Mr. Ascroft's question, addressed to the First Lord of the Admiralty, in the House of Commons

"whether he was aware that on the 14th of January a copy of the "Navy and Army Illustrated" was sent to every parent of a cadet on the "Britannia," containing a photograph of the nursing staff at the "Britannia" Hospital; whether he was aware that the females in such photograph, attired in nurses' uniforms, were the domestic servants, and not qualified nurses," that Mr. Austin Chamberlain, M.P., replied:—"The photograph represents the ordinary hospital staff, including a trained sister and a trained female nurse, the former appointed in 1894, the latter added in 1896. Both these ladies had long training in civil hospitals, and were specially selected on account of their fitness for the position. The impression that there were no female nurses probably arose from the fact that this is the ordinary nursing staff for the ordinary sick quarters; whilst in a separate house, which is opened when required for infectious cases, there are trained members of the naval sick-berth staff. Great care is exercised in their selection to secure the best men."

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CONSIDERING the use made of nurses' uniforms by untrained persons, we are not surprised at Mr. Ascroft's alarm. These questions on nursing matters in the House of Commons are a healthy sign.

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THE correspondence with the Home Office has brought about a very beneficial concession which is granted by the Home Secretary under already existing powers. Sir Matthew White Ridley has just promised to those interested in obtaining trained nursing for prisoners, that in the larger prisons there shall be such a reorganization of the male and female hospital staff as to provide trained officers to deal with cases of illness; whilst in prisons too small to need a permanent staff for hospital work, the Governors are instructed to place themselves in communication with local nursing institutions in order to procure trained help when necessary. This is much better than leaving sick criminals to the care of untrained warders as heretofore.

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GOOD nursing is maintained by good discipline, and we were somewhat astonished, as no doubt were the Cranbrook Guardians in receiving an account from the Dover Institution for Trained Nurses to notice such items as "16s. each for Adela's and Bessie's travelling expenses" appear.

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COULD anything be more unprofessional or unbusiness like. Surely the prefix "nurse" might have been added. The custom of calling trained nurses by their christian names is a very undesirable one, and reminds one forcibly of one's "pro" days, twenty years ago, when the medical staff

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