

fuller knowledge than of any other. The complaint which the Hon. Sydney Holland, chairman of the London Hospital, dubbed 'Matron's Chronic,' *i.e.*, lack of the associate feeling, of a wide professional interest, is too much with us. It is 'my hospital, my work, my staff.' Those who have tried to kindle an *esprit de corps* for the welfare of the profession at large, know this well. 'My work requires all my attention. I have no time for outside affairs,' says the hospital matron, with a consciousness of virtue. Side by side with this spirit of exclusiveness grows up too often something very like jealousy of others' work, an unwillingness to admit freely and generously their merits and the points in which they excel. But I trust we are, as a body, outgrowing this. The Parliamentary franchise, by compelling attention to matters non-personal and of widely extended interest, will, I believe, do more for the education of women in the fullest sense of the word, than anything else."

THE Cairo correspondent sent the following letter to *The Times* on the 15th inst., on the question of provision for the care of the sick and wounded in the Soudan campaign :

"On June 27th you published a letter from Lord Wantage who, referring to Lord Cromer and Sir Herbert Kitchener having declined the offer made by the Red Cross Society, says: 'During previous expeditions on the Nile, the Red Cross aid has always been most gratefully accepted, and in no case has the society made any demands upon the military authorities for transport, which they always provide themselves.'

This statement might lead some readers to conclude that an offer of aid, both valuable and costing nothing to its recipients, has been refused, which is not entirely correct.

The society could not provide their own independent transport. From Wady Halfa to the Atbara the military line is single, and as yet barely sufficiently equipped for the strict requirements of the expedition.

South of the Atbara, every camel and boat that the country can furnish will be required for the force marching upon Omdurman.

A Red Cross contingent would find itself compelled to draw upon the Sirdar's resources to a serious extent for convoy, transport, and provisions, both on going and returning—no small matter in a devastated country where everything, water excepted, needed by an army of 20,000 men has to be carried along with them.

No real analogy can be found between the conduct of the present and that of previous Soudan expeditions. The latter were conducted regardless of expense and with comparatively little forethought or knowledge of the country.

The present campaign has been planned even to its minor details with scientific carefulness in order to ensure success within as short a time as possible and limit expenditure to the means of the Egyptian Treasury.

It is, therefore, easy to see how even any small additional call upon the machinery planned by the

Sirdar and Officers may interfere with its smooth working.

I have the highest authority for stating that the entire force is amply supplied with surgeons and all medical appliances for the sick and wounded."

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THIS explanation confirms rather than excuses the complaint widely made that the sick and wounded soldiers in the present campaign in the Soudan are to be denied efficient nursing care. It is a farce to state that the "entire force is amply supplied with all appliances for the sick and wounded," when Nursing Sisters have been excluded from the equipment. And it is not true that the expenditure need be limited in this most important item of nursing the sick humanely, when the Government have just deliberately refused the munificent offer made by Mr. Alfred Harmsworth to equip, quite at his own expense, a scientific ambulance, auxiliary to the Sirdar's army. The truth is, that the authorities fear the trouble of transporting an efficient nursing corps for our soldiers, and by this serious omission they are sending men to their deaths through enteric fever and other tropical diseases just as surely as if they lodged a bullet in their brains.

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It is reported that the Queen takes a deep interest in the coming Soudan campaign. We cannot believe that Her Majesty is aware that her Army Nursing Sisters have been prevented from taking part in the campaign, and performing their honourable duty.

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It is to be hoped that Lord Cromer and the Sirdar have not formed their opinions of all English nurses from the conduct of a trained nurse, notorious in Anglo-Egyptian circles, who, two years ago, when she failed to get employment in Cairo, offered her services to the Sirdar, and to whom he is reported to have bluntly replied that "he required nurses for his soldiers, not women."

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THE Rev. Lawson Forster, at a meeting of the Chelsea Guardians, complained that "they had been advertising for weeks and weeks for nurses to fill vacancies at the Chelsea Infirmary, and received no applications." Why not?

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PHOTOGRAPHS are sometimes apt to be deceptive, especially under the new beautifying process of eliminating wrinkles, and foreshortening prominent features, and we own some sympathy with those members of the Mutford Board of Guardians, who at their last meeting objected to selection by photograph, in appointing a superintendent nurse, as recommended by the General Purposes Committee, who had not seen the lady. The photograph was handed round to the Guardians, and

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