

mended the following staff for active service:— Miss A. B. Brebner and Miss H. Hogarth, from Princess Christian's Private Nursing Institution at Windsor, Miss A. Spooner, of the Royal Free Hospital, Miss M. L. T. Babb, Miss Woolcombe, and Miss E. Laughton, of the Nurses' Co-operation; Miss E. Sainsbury, Miss M. Lowe, Miss E. M. Whiteman, of the Chartered Nurses' Society; and Miss M. Falcon and Miss P. Watson, unattached. Miss P. Watson and Miss Lowe were trained at the Royal Free Hospital, Miss Babb, at St. Thomas', and Miss Woolcombe, at St. Bartholomew's, but we observe that the qualification of a three years' certificate from a training school of repute has been dispensed with in several instances, and that the nurses selected have not in all instances had experience in the duties of Sisters of wards, a position in which they can alone qualify themselves for the control and supervision of subordinate officers. We could have hoped that a very high standard of training and experience alone would have qualified nurses for active service on the Army Nursing Reserve, and that the three years' completed training and certification would have been adopted as a minimum qualification. Apparently, no definite standard of training has been adopted by the Committee of the Army Nursing Reserve.

The Government have chartered the large Anchor liner, *City of Rome*, for a hospital ship, which is being rapidly fitted up at Glasgow.

Sir William MacCormac, Bart., leaves Southampton to-day (Saturday) for the seat of war, by the Union liner *Briton*. He is to be accompanied by Mr. G. H. Makins, Surgeon to St. Thomas' Hospital. Mrs. Makins, who was a Sister at St. Thomas', and on active service in Egypt in 1883, was decorated with the Royal Red Cross.

Mr. Frederick Treves, F.R.C.S., Consulting-Surgeon to the London Hospital, has been appointed Consulting-Surgeon to the troops in Africa, and leaves at once for the seat of war.

Dr. Buntine, an Australian volunteer, has been mentioned in despatches for conspicuous gallantry in the field in Natal.

The first batch of Nursing Sisters have reached the Cape in the *Braemar Castle*, but little news of the women's work has filtered through the wire. From Johannesburg a despatch states that the English nurses have been evicted from the hospital by the Boers, but it is satisfactory to know that both at Mafeking and Kimberley there

are, so far, plenty of trained nurses shut up in the towns to care for any wounded who may come in, and we have no doubt they are all inspired with the same complaisant pluck as Mr. Rhodes, even without the little champagne dinners, with which he is hospitably entertaining his circle of friends whilst guarding his diamond mines.

Amongst them we learn is Mrs. Clayton, so well known in the nursing world as clever little Sister Collins, of St. Helena Home. She is working with Sister Henrietta at St. Michael's Home, and volunteered for duty at the front upon the first rumour of war. But the investment kept her in Kimberley. In a letter to a nurse friend, dated 7th October last, Mrs. Clayton spoke of the difficulties of the commissariat and the growing scarcity of provisions, and their rapidly increasing cost. Every day which leaves the Western border towns unrelieved increases the terrible plight of our people cut off within their walls.

And yet the last news cabled from Kimberley, three weeks later, was, "All safe here." The religious Sisters had the option to remain or return to England. Without fear and without exception, they all preferred to remain at their posts, in spite of short commons. They then received notice to render all assistance possible to the British soldiers, and to tend the wounded on both sides. Since their residence in South Africa they have been treated with kindness and considerateness by the Boers, who have been generous to the institute. "Terrible," wrote the Sisters, "as it was, to be in the midst of the war they preferred to be there than out of it, because of the orphans and old people under their care. In Johannesburg and Kimberley alone they had 700 orphans, as well as many old men and women, all British subjects. Just before communications were cut off with Kimberley the Superior telegraphed for the Sisters who were out to return, and they had only just time to catch the last train from outlying districts. They had to wait a day and a night at the station, and when they got a train it was only with standing room. In this way they travelled for two nights and one day. They saw several poor women crushed to death in trying to get to the train. The houses of the Sisters at Durban, Port Elizabeth, and Cape Town are crowded with refugees.

In connection with the Sisterhood at Bloemfontein Bishop Webb writes to the *Church Times* to commend the little community to the special sympathy and intercessions of Churchpeople at home. In a letter, dated September 25th, which

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