

Army Nursing Notes.

THE Queen is sending a comforting little personal Christmas gift to the soldiers in South Africa. This is to be 100,000 tins, specially decorated, to contain $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of chocolate for each man. The firms of Cadbury, Fry, and Rowntree, are supplying the "sweeties," which can be either eaten or used as a beverage. Presumably, these tins and their contents will be kept as a souvenir of the campaign, as the words "South Africa, 1900," are to be embossed on the lid.

Colonel Young, Commissioner of the British Red Cross Society (says the *Daily Telegraph*) attended a meeting of the Cape of Good Hope Society for Tending the Sick and Wounded, and conveyed the following message from the Princess of Wales: "God speed you! Unite your efforts and you will have complete success."

Miss Florence Nightingale had also entrusted a letter to Colonel Young in which she said:—"This is a sad, painful business, but much good it has called forth! May we hope that the nurses, every one of them, will prove themselves worthy of the great opportunity afforded by God's goodness. I wish I could go, but I am chained to my room by illness. Three cheers for you wherever you go!—cheers to strengthen, not disturb the sick."

Messages of thanks were cabled to the Princess of Wales and Miss Nightingale.

Graphic accounts have appeared in the press, in letters sent from the front, retelling harrowing scenes of suffering on the stricken field, which are inevitable so long as man decides his disputes by killing.

Our own soldiers have been shattered and maimed, and the Boers horribly wounded by sword and shell. Hundreds of brave men are mutilated for life, and the horrors of war are being forcibly brought home to every family in the Transvaal. Then the hundreds of prisoners on both sides are to be commiserated, confined, no doubt, on short commons. A Pretoria paper states that cases of scurvy have made their appearance among some of the British prisoners there. The soldiers are being transferred to Waterfall Farm, and have asked the Government not to give them any more tinned food, as it is of very inferior quality.

The Boers are reported to be suffering from dysentery, and no doubt the heat, dust, and

exposure, will result in an aftermath of fever and death when the excitement of the campaign is over. It is stated that 70 per cent. of the troops for service in Natal, where enteric fever is prevalent, have elected to be inoculated with anti-typhoid serum.

More pleasant it is to dwell upon such international incidents as the generous gift of the French to the English Red Cross Society, consisting of a complete equipment of medical and surgical appliances sufficient for two field hospitals. In his letter of thanks to the Duke of Auerstaedt, Lord Wantage refers to the revival which the gift will produce in the hearts of the English people of "memories of mutual friendship and good feeling between the two nations in days gone by," and particularly of the campaign of 1870-71, "when the English Red Cross Society was allowed the privilege of sending succour to the brave soldiers of France."

In Rome also, a committee has been formed to raise subscriptions among the English colony in aid of our soldiers' families.

The various funds in England are being most generously supported by all classes of society, and, if well administered, there should be no want suffered by the wives and children of our soldiers, and every comfort should be provided both for the well and wounded. It is to be hoped that practical and warm-hearted women will be given a free hand at the Cape to administer comforts and necessities to the troops, and that all red tape, with its interminable entanglements, will be kept at home at the War Office. Anyway, "Tommy" does not need his parcels tied up with it.

Following in the wake of our kind American cousins in London, it has been decided to organize a Civil Red Cross Ambulance, and the inaugural meeting was held at the house of Adeline Duchess of Bedford last week. The Duke of Portland has given £10,000 towards this fund, and Lord and Lady Henry Bentinck intend to give personal service.

The ambulance will contain 120 beds, and will have its own transport and ambulance waggons, and a truly liberal organization is anticipated, as it is hoped the members of the medical and nursing staffs will represent all the large London Hospitals which, so far, have been unable to take any part in attending the sick and wounded, as in the selection, especially of nurses, undue favour has been shown to the institutions personally represented on the Central Red Cross Committee.

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