

Army Nursing Notes.

THE nursing staff of the Portland Hospital had a cheery send-off from Waterloo on Saturday morning. They left later in the day on the *Tantallon Castle* from Southampton, which also carried the siege train for South Africa.

The homecoming of the first batch of sick soldiers from South Africa, on the *Sumatra*, was rather a sad sight, and with the exception of two officers, none of them had been in action, but were the men certified unfit for active service, and drafted home to make room in hospital for the wounded men. These poor fellows looked very ill and frail, and many could hardly walk ashore, and were evidently suffering from the result of climatic diseases, chronic dysentery, phthisis, rheumatism and malaria.

The very saddest sight of all was a tragic little batch of eight insane men, two of whom, unshaved and unkempt, were in the padded cells. Poor fellows! what sights had their eyes looked upon before that terrible vacant stare told its sorry tale of a shattered mind?

Surgeon-General Evatt, the principal Medical Officer of the Western District, has received orders to have in readiness at the Military Hospital, Devonport, 160 beds for the reception of the wounded officers and men about to be sent home from the Cape, and numerous offers of hospitality from private persons have been offered to convalescents.

The *Lismore Castle*, which was one of the first transports to arrive at the Cape, and was then equipped as a troopship, has been within five days transformed and equipped as a hospital ship. This is prompt work.

There are altogether 600 wounded in hospital at Wynberg. They include many bad cases. Ninety wounded leave by the *Kildonan Castle* for England. Batches of wounded will leave every week, in order to relieve the pressure at Cape Town.

A bearer corps about 2,000 strong is being formed at Pietermaritzburg and Durban to assist the regular ambulance corps. The railway department is busy making stretchers. This is fine bracing work for the refugees.

The women are showing great devotion and power of organization in dealing with the sick and wounded and the unfortunate refugees. The

Women's Rand Relief Committee at Capetown is relieving from 2,000 to 3,000 women and children daily. The whole of the expense is defrayed out of local subscriptions.

A Transvaal commandant, who is one of the Gras Pan prisoners, has said that when he joined the commando he found that a large number of the burghers had absolutely no idea of the significance of the Red Cross, and thought it was part of the British flag. This may account for the reports that the Boers have fired at the hospitals flying this sign of mercy. We hope so.

In a few days the good ship *Maine* will steam away from England, and never before, we feel sure, has so much thought and enthusiasm been evoked over a hospital ship.

Owing to the enormous number of applications on the part of the public to view the ship on the 17th inst., the Hon. Secretary of the Fund desires it to be known that it is important for those receiving tickets to note that the *Maine* is lying at No. 11 Warehouse, West India Import Docks, the nearest railway station being West India Dock Station from Fenchurch Street. We very much fear that many will be disappointed, as it will hardly be possible for all those eager to inspect the *Maine* to do so in one day.

The gifts in money and in kind to the *Maine* Committee have been princely, and the £30,000 required is already in hand. Deck chairs, with Stars and Stripes cushions, will make the deck quite gay, and Mr. Blow, the husband of the energetic Hon. Secretary, has had made in accordance with his own design several writing desks which, when open, will form a red cross, the side arms to be utilised for paper and envelopes. Every lady on the Committee has made personal gifts to add to the material comfort of the patients.

WE are glad to know that the NURSING RECORD has been the means of arousing interest in the needs of our sick and wounded, and that the people of Jedburgh have made, according to the Red Cross instructions issued in its columns no less than five large bales of clothing numbering over 800 articles for the use of the patients on the American ship *Maine*. These include shirts, pyjamas, dressing gowns, socks, "woollies," "Tam-mies," and fifty-eight beautiful flannel waistcoats. Also over 500 woollies, waistcoats, caps, socks and mufflers have been sent to Lady White for distribution among the forces under her husband's command. Miss J. P. Jamieson, who has been a leading spirit in organizing this generous and

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