

develops some new clinical symptoms, the significance of which may even be exceedingly difficult of determination to the expert. Reliance upon simple rules such as the maintenance of efficient depth in respiration, constant attention to the patient's colour, and lid reflex; resorting to lip-rubbing and lowering of the head for shallow breathing, or the slightest pallor, and withholding the anæsthetic when the lid-reflex disappears, these and kindred measures keeping the administrator in constant intimate contact with the patient and yielding him a knowledge of the exact degree of narcosis, will lead to greater security than can be obtained by any form of apparatus yet invented.

Army Nursing Notes.

H.R.H. the Princess of Wales has been pleased to accept from Mr. Hailwood, the Manchester Creamery, Broughton, 5,000 quart bottles of sterilised milk for the use of the sick and wounded in her hospital ship.

We much regret to learn that the services of the Sisters of the Army Nursing Service will not be utilized in connection with the field hospitals, the Sisters being employed exclusively at the base hospitals. We are strongly of opinion that they should be allowed to work in the field hospitals.

Further news of the *Maine* has reached us which corroborates what we said last week as to the bad time which befell her in the Bay, and, indeed, until she reached Las Palmas. We hear that doctors, nurses, stewardess, sailors and stokers were all prostrated. It appears that the ship's centre of gravity has been altered by her conversion from a merchant into a passenger ship, and that she rolls terrifically. The result was that the party never met at a meal until they had been twelve days at sea. During the gale in the Bay, "the ship could scarcely go two knots an hour, and it was considered inadvisable to drive her too hard"—a caution which seems to deserve explanation.

It is hoped that at Cape Town something may be done to lessen the rolling on the return voyage, but surely the War Office, which officially inspected the *Maine* before her departure, might have discovered the defect caused by the alteration in her centre of gravity, so that this might have been rectified before she left this country.

We hope that the War Office will realize the necessity of preparing in time of peace for war, and will maintain in the future hospital ships,

built for the purpose, instead of being obliged to hastily accept and transform ships designed for other uses, with the results which have occurred in the case both of the *Princess of Wales* and of the *Maine*.

News has been received by cable that the medical and nursing staff of the Portland Hospital have arrived at Cape Town "all well."

Colonel J. S. Young, the Commissioner of the British Red Cross Society in South Africa, says that he is "inundated with applications for work under the Red Cross from nurses. There are," he adds, "certainly valuable resources here in fully qualified and trained nurses. Forty qualified nurses were, I believe, forced by the Boers to quit Johannesburg and the Transvaal on the outbreak of the war, and are now in Cape Town earnestly desiring to be employed. Their case is certainly a hard one, and deserving of consideration should occasion arise for supplementing the naval or army nursing staff out here."

We have always maintained that there are many well-trained nurses in Cape Colony whose services would be of the greatest value at the present time. What is needed at the Cape is a duly appointed and recognized Superintendent of Nursing, whose business it would be to receive applications from nurses on the spot, investigate their qualifications, and recommend them for appointment if found suitable. The duties of such a Nursing Superintendent would be much simplified by the fact that nurses in Cape Colony are registered, and, therefore, the qualifications of applicants could be easily verified by reference to the Register.

Colonel Young also says:—"The Society is now engaged in equipping a convalescent home at the Cape for both officers and men. A large extent of ground, with suitable houses, belonging to Sir James Sivewright, has been generously placed by him at the disposal of the Society at Somerset West—a beautiful and healthy site, 30 miles from Cape Town, and 18 from Wynberg, with railway communication. It can provide 200 beds, which can easily be increased by huts or tents. A nursing staff, consisting of two superintending nursing sisters—Miss Page, lady superintendent, and Mrs. Makins—with five nursing sisters (one army nursing sister and four army nursing service reserve nurses), will be in charge, with orderlies under them."

From the same report it would appear that the hospital trains are doing good service. We

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)