

read:—"These trains have been proved in the transport of the wounded from the engagements at Belmont and Graspan to be excellent and efficient in the arrangements for the comfortable conveyance of wounded over the long distances usual in this country. One train carries 92 and the other 96 officers and men lying down in five carriages, with passage down the centre, all communicating with one another and with carriages fitted, one for carrying arms and kits, one fitted as kitchen and pharmacy, and a saloon carriage accommodating eight first-class and 15 second-class passengers, two medical officers, and two nursing sisters being provided for in this saloon with a portion of the other male attendants on the wounded. The ventilation is admirable, and I was only able to suggest the provision, which I agreed to pay for, of movable bed trays for the patients who could sit up to eat their food from. I also provided an ice chest for one train at the request of Colonel Supple."

Surgeon C. Marsh Beadnell, R.N., in a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, dated from Camp, Modder River, writes:—"The hospital trains are beautifully equipped, and reflect the greatest credit on the Army Medical Department. It is quite a treat to see the nursing sisters attending to their arduous duties amidst all this blood and thunder with the same zeal and care they are so well known to display in our hospitals at home."

A "flying hospital" has been designed for use in South Africa, more especially in connection with the Imperial Yeomanry. It is built after the fashion of an Irish car, with a hollow centre. Through an opening at the top a central well is reached, which is packed with a regulation operation case, a cylinder of drinking water, and the necessaries required in rendering first aid. Flying ambulance cars to work in harmony with the flying hospital have also been designed, and it is hoped that by their means skilled help will be brought to the wounded of cavalry regiments sooner than is possible at the present time when they are removed by stretcher-bearers on foot.

A small private hospital for wounded officers, with trained nurses and everything provided free of expense, is now ready at 17, Grosvenor Crescent.

Sir Savile B. Crossley, Bart., has offered to lend Blundeston Hall, near Lowestoft, as a convalescent home for members of the Imperial Yeomanry who may return from South Africa invalided. About seventy beds will be available.

The Dance at the Lambeth Infirmary.

MISS GRIFFITHS, the Matron of the Lambeth Infirmary, will have the cordial support of her colleagues in the attitude which she has adopted with regard to the proposed dance at the Infirmary of which she is Matron. We have on more than one occasion expressed our views as to the undesirability of dances in hospitals and infirmaries. It must be remembered that hospitals exist not primarily for the nurses, but for the care and relief of the sick and dying. No one, however ardent a dancer, would advocate dancing in a house where a patient lay seriously ill or dying; we venture to think few persons would accept an invitation issued under such conditions, and would be surprised at its impropriety.

Our hospitals and infirmaries contain many hundreds of sick, and a day rarely passes without at least one death. In a place maintained for the relief of sickness and suffering, other interests must be subservient, and it is surely in the highest degree incongruous that in the precincts of our "temples of pain" those responsible for the efficient care of the sick, and those whose duty it is to minister to them, should be engaged in midnight revelling and dancing. It is easy to imagine the sharpness of the contrast to one who has just left in the wards a dying relation, to pass on his way a part of the building whence issue sounds of merriment, music and dancing. The incongruity would be too painful. Let nurses dance if they will, but let them do it away from the scene of their work. They have now such liberal hours off duty that they can easily arrange to attend a dance if they desire to do so, but hospitals and infirmaries should not be utilized as ball rooms.

But it was not on these grounds, though, no doubt, they have weight with her, that Miss Griffiths objected to the dance at the Lambeth Infirmary. She wrote to the *Guardians* stating that she founded her objection on past experience, knowing from this how pernicious and detrimental to the working and tone of the Infirmary these gatherings had been. Years ago, at her request, the Board granted a day and night's leave in lieu of the ball. This had worked very satisfactorily, and the little rest and change had been of real benefit to the nurses. She had no objection whatever to dancing in its proper place, but she did not think the discipline of an infirmary should be interfered with by these functions.

Miss Griffiths is one of the most respected of London Infirmary Matrons, and her length of service exceeds most, if not all, of that of her colleagues. Her experience is, therefore, great, and her opinion of weight; but in spite of this

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