

Army Nursing Notes.

Every mark of appreciation and respect is being evinced for our brave wounded soldiers, as they arrive home from the seat of war, and, indeed, their splendid devotion to duty and heroism commands the affection of a grateful nation.

Netley Hospital has this week been quite *en fête*. On Monday, the Prince and Princess of Wales paid it a visit, and showed the utmost kindness and interest in the soldier patients, and on Tuesday the Queen went personally to visit and enquire for the wounded from South Africa. All this honour is well earned and deserved by the defenders of the Empire.

On Tuesday last the *Princess of Wales* Hospital Ship arrived home with many wounded on board. The somewhat lengthy voyage had, no doubt, been very beneficial to the sick on board, as nearly all arrived home in a convalescent condition. Early on Monday the Prince and Princess of Wales, and suite, arrived at Southampton and welcomed back the first hospital ship which has arrived from the Cape. On reaching the vessel, the Princess was welcomed by Captain Martyn Johnson, Royal Navy Reserve, Commander. Major Macpherson, of the Central Red Cross Committee, Major Morgan, Royal Army Medical Corps, in medical superintendence, and Nursing Superintendent Miss Chadwick stepped forward and were cordially greeted by the Princess, to whom also a bouquet of lilies was presented.

The nursing staff of Mr. Moseley's Hospital of 100 beds—a generous gift for the sick and wounded—consists of Sister E. C. Laurence, of Guy's Hospital, who is to be Sister in Charge, and Sisters E. Long, E. Atkins (late Matron of the Park Fever Hospital), E. M. Fisher, D. A. Snell, and F. Baker, of the Army Nursing Reserve.

A charming pillow, one of 70 to be sent out for the use of the sick and wounded in South Africa, has been sent for our inspection by Miss Butler, the Matron of the Samaritan Free Hospital, Marylebone Road. They are of the ordinary oblong shape, made of ticking, filled with beautiful soft white flock, which was a gift from Messrs. Nightingale and Co., Dean Street, Soho. The outside cover is of red turkey twill, 100 yards of twill being given by Messrs. Spencer, Turner and Co., Lisson Grove, for this purpose. At one corner of each pillow is a little pocket, which contains a pocket handkerchief, and a small text book in an envelope, the latter being a gift

from one of the nurses. Inside the loose cover several illustrated papers have been placed, so Tommie's taste has been most carefully catered for. Every one in the hospital, Matron, nurses—and patients who were well enough—helped to make the pillows, which, we do not doubt, will be warmly appreciated when they reach their destination.

Sir John Williams is helping to organize a Welsh Hospital for South Africa. "Gallant little Wales" is quite right to be in the running with her English, Scottish, and Irish sisters.

The following letter has appeared in the *Scotsman*, from an Edinburgh correspondent. We have every sympathy with its sentiments.

SIR,—It is with amazement and incredulity that I hear a rumour that the head of our Edinburgh South African Hospital is to be a lady who has been for upwards of eight years matron of an incurable hospital in Edinburgh, and before that held the same position in a similar, but smaller, institution in Perth, and who, besides being so long out of actual nursing, is neither an Edinburgh nurse, nor holds a three years' certificate from any recognised training school, which in these days is so all important. Surely the citizens of Edinburgh have a right to ask why the nursing department of their hospital is not to be officered by the best of Edinburgh nurses, numbers of whom have been trained in the surgical wards of our own Royal Infirmary, and are ready to volunteer. Are none of our eminent Edinburgh surgeons interested in the important work, or do they regard our brave soldiers as incurable cases? If our surgeons are willing to hold our Scottish nursing profession up to ridicule, our nurses surely are not; and it will certainly be difficult to get fully certificated surgical nurses to work under one not qualified. I can only hope this extraordinary rumour is without foundation.—I am, &c.

INDIGNATION.

The Under Secretary of State for War is kept busy answering questions in the House in connection with the Army Nursing Service. This is good. Mr. Wyndham, in answer to Sir W. Foster, said that the proportion of nursing orderlies employed in field and general hospitals in South Africa was one for every seven patients, and the Secretary of State was advised that that was sufficient. In a field hospital the bearer company could supply additional orderlies as soon as an action was over, and as patients were always transferred as soon as possible to the base hospital, the beds were rarely all full. In a general hospital, many of the cases were always slight, and there was a regular staff of Nursing Sisters.

When it is realized that this is both for day and night duty, the actual number of patients for which an orderly is responsible during the day is

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