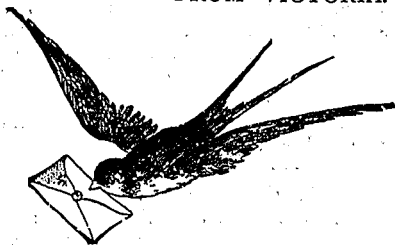


MOCK NURSES OF THE LATEST FASHION.

This book of Mr. Gant's is receiving considerable notice, the author's position as a Vice-President of the Royal British Nurses' Association leading the lay press to suppose that he is on that account well qualified to discuss the subject with which he deals. For our own part, we consider it a gratuitously cruel attack, and we know that many well-trained private nurses regard with apprehension the effect of this book upon the public mind, and the increased difficulties they will encounter from the distrust inevitably engendered. If, however, nurses are roused to realize the necessity for combining to attain legal status its effect will not be wholly mischievous. Lastly, the public must realize that without the support of medical men, the "mock nurses" whom Mr. Gant describes could not exist for a day. That they flourish is a blot on the escutcheon of the medical profession.

Our Foreign Letter.

FROM VICTORIA.



BEFORE leaving Melbourne the Victorian contingent of nurses selected for active service in South Africa were entertained in a most festive

manner, and Miss Farquharson (Melbourne Hospital) and Miss Ayres (Prince Alfred Hospital), who with Dr. Fetherston selected the Superintendent (Miss Rawson) and the Sisters, were heartily congratulated upon their unanimous and satisfactory choice of those sent to represent our noble profession at the front. On this auspicious occasion Miss Farquharson wore her beautiful Matrons' Council Badge with its tricolour ribbon, and her colleagues here rejoiced at this mark of appreciation upon the part of the Matrons in England in bestowing this badge upon her, for no one has worked more devotedly for the elevation of nursing and the happiness of nurses in all Australia than Martha Farquharson.

It may interest you to know that Miss Rawson, who goes as Sister Superintendent, holds a three years' certificate from Leicester Infirmary and was trained for one year at the Coventry Fever Hospital, and six months at the Rotunda, Dublin. Since she came to this colony she has held the positions of Sister to the Women's Hospital, Melbourne, three years; Kalgoorlie Hospital, Western Australia, Matron four and a-half years; and now resigns her new appointment as Matron to the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women and Children, Melbourne, to go to South Africa. So I think this splendid experience even comes up to the "Record" standard. Several of the other Sisters are matrons of hospitals, and their posts are to be kept open for them until their return.

Before sailing for South Africa the ten nurses selected were present at the barracks when the troops arrived, and were met by Janet Lady Clarke, Lady Sargood, and other ladies. They were called together by the principal medical officer, Dr. Fetherston, and informed by him that Janet Lady Clarke desired, on behalf of the subscribers, to

present each of them with a purse of 17 sovereigns. Addressing them, Lady Clarke said:—"I have very great pleasure indeed in presenting you with these purses. We are glad that you are going out to represent Victoria in the noble work of nursing the sick and wounded soldiers. We hope you will be the means of saving many lives, and that you will come back to us well and happy."

Dr. Fetherston also addressed a few kindly and most sensible words to the little band. He said: "Sister Rawson and Nursing Sisters,—You are going to the front on an errand of mercy, and I wish you every success in that undertaking. I hope you will recognise that Miss Rawson is in charge, and that on her report will depend altogether your chances of engagement in South Africa. I am quite sure, knowing your character here, that none of you will do anything that will cause you to forfeit our esteem. You have been selected out of over 300 candidates, and it was no child's play to bring that number down to 10. I trust you will place implicit confidence in Miss Rawson. If at any time you are in trouble or distressed go to her, and you will get advice and sympathy as good and sound as you would from your own mothers. I wish you success and a speedy return."

Sister Rawson, in reply, said: "Janet Lady Clarke and those associated with you, I thank you for your great kindness. Dr. Fetherston, I also thank you."

I must not omit to tell you that the proposal to send nurses to South Africa came from Lady Clarke, who has pulled the whole thing through, our Government was terribly close-fisted and was not inclined to provide uniform, but at Lady Clarke's earnest request it doled out £50, which of course did not nearly cover expenses, but she got the money together, paid for everything, and handed the nice little sum of £17 to each nurse for "extras."

The Sisters' sailed on the *Euryalus* on the 10th March, and were the recipients of beautiful floral offerings. They did look so charming in their neat grey and red uniforms, and so sensible and good, we were very proud of our representatives, and felt that the honour of Victorian nurses was quite safe in their hands. May God guard them and bring them safely back again.

"LEFT BEHIND."

Preparations, Inventions, etc.**PAGET'S MILK FOOD.**

ONE of the difficulties of the artificial feeding of infants lies in obtaining a really efficient and reliable substitute for the mother's milk. Every authority agrees that such a substitute should contain all the constituents of the human breast secretion in their proper proportions, without any added foreign ingredient whatever. Since, also, the food requires to be animal and not vegetable, milk is the only natural one. Cow's milk contains every constituent of human milk, but, unfortunately, they are not in their proper proportions, and every investigator who has interested himself in finding the most efficient substitute for breast milk, has endeavoured to modify cow's milk by some method or other, more or less complicated. The average compositions of cow's

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