

were all but exhausted, and the inhabitants almost too weak to walk. Indeed, two of the officers from Ladysmith who were patients on the *Maine*, were little but skin and bone when they first arrived, and one gained nearly two stone on the way home. Other patients were received in an emaciated state, but a week on board, and the good care they received, made a marvellous difference in their condition.

Mr. Nash, when he obtained leave to visit the front, had a thrilling experience. He obtained a pass for Colenso, but when he got to Chieveley, the Boers were firing on the trains, so he could not go any further. Seven shells had that day been fired on a train between Colenso and Chieveley, and everyone was leaving Colenso. The trains down were crowded, and some people even walked the whole way, down the railway track, a distance of about 18 miles. Mr. Nash walked on from Chieveley to Gun Hill, from which our troops were firing on the Boers, the latter replying from Grobler's Kloof. In reply to an enquiry as to how he appreciated being under fire, Mr. Nash replied that he "rather enjoyed it, it was very exciting." One train came down that night with the engine completely covered with rope, as a protection from the Boer bullets. It was, in consequence, nick-named "Hairy Mary," and a photograph in Mr. Nash's possession showed that the name was well bestowed.

After the relief of Ladysmith, the waggon road from Colenso to Ladysmith was, said Mr. Ellsworth, "one solid line of ox-waggon," carrying provisions and stores to the town. "I never," he said, "saw anything like it. Each waggon was drawn by 16 or 18 oxen, and they followed close on one after the other, and the empty ones returned the other side of the track."

Both Mr. Ellsworth and Mr. Nash appear to have greatly enjoyed their experiences on the *Maine*, and also the opportunity afforded of visiting places of interest—including, of course, St. Helena—on the voyage. They are not, however, going out again, but, after a visit to Paris, are returning to the United States. They should leave behind them in this country an idea of the standard which may be attained by male nurses when the right type of man is selected, and an efficient training bestowed upon him.

THE *Maine* sailed once more for South Africa on Thursday last. She had a hearty send-off from Southampton, many of the Committee going down from London in order to see her off. We wish her well through the Bay, and a speedy and safe return. There is, unfortunately, every prospect that there will be plenty of work for her on her arrival.

### Army Nursing Notes.

THE rooms at the Savoy Hotel which have been placed at the disposal of the Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, for wounded officers, are now being used by two officers from the front, who, no doubt, appreciate the convenience and comfort afforded them by this kindly and thoughtful provision on the part of her Royal Highness.

The second instalment of the Welsh Hospital is being got ready rapidly, and will be despatched shortly. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be forthcoming to allow the hospital to be kept open longer than the six months originally decided upon.

The want of Nursing Sisters is being severely felt at the front with the Irish Hospital, and the military authorities have given their consent to Lord Iveagh sending two. Miss M'Donnell, Lady Superintendent of the Richmond Hospital, Dublin, and Sister Walker, of the same institution, have been placed on the Army Nursing Reserve, as Superintendent and Nursing Sister, and sailed from Southampton last Saturday.

Lord Iveagh has received a message from Lord Roberts that the Irish Hospital is a very real addition to the Army. Thoroughly satisfactory in all respects.

Those whom it may concern will scarcely be obliged to Mr. Rudyard Kipling for his announcement, in the columns of the *Daily Mail*, that a patient in hospital with a fractured thigh was suffering from two bed-sores! He made it in the innocence of his heart, no doubt, not realising that the fact is the very last which those responsible for his nursing would desire to see published. We are curious to know, also, how the air-bed used for the relief of the bed-sores suited the fractured femur?

Sir William MacCormac, who visited the Ladysmith hospitals after the relief of the town, says that the work of the medical staff must have been terribly heavy. In Intombi hospital were 3,200 cases, for these there were 20 medical officers, seven of whom had been invalided. The proper staff for this number he estimates at 89. The Boer fire, so far as he could judge, had been specially directed against the buildings used as hospitals, this being notably the case with the Town Hall.

A Nursing Sister who served through the siege of Ladysmith mentions the interesting fact that

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