

as they came with the ambulance waggons to fetch us. I think nearly all the women began to cry. I know I did, but we forgot how dirty and tired we were and began to feel happy, and as if we felt there would soon be an end to our troubles. Still they were not over. The road was awful, the water-cart gave out, and we were nine hours without water, and only had bully beef and ship biscuit to eat. I could not attempt it, my tongue was too swollen with thirst. When we reached the Modder we drank, not knowing or caring that it was practically 'Boer soup,' as the Tommies call it. Oh, dear, how we would have loved to find ourselves near an Express Dairy Company! There was a camp prepared for us, but, of course, nothing to sit on or lie on in the tents as all our luggage was left behind, as the ambulance waggons could only hold the women and children, tightly packed. Lord Methuen went round himself with tins of condensed milk for the children. He was very kind to everyone. He put me on the nursing staff with the Army Nurses at once, and they were all very good to me, but after a week in the enteric wards I was taken off duty with a high temperature, and they thought I was in for a dose of the universal complaint. However it passed and I think they thought it was due to the privations and unusual hardships. Poor Sister Bell, since dead from enteric in our hospital, added me to her endless duties at night and Sister Guthrie gave me her own sheets to sleep in and her own pillows as hers were softer. Poor Sister Snowdon too was very kind. Both Sister Guthrie and Sister Snowdon have lately come into the hospital with enteric. When I got better I was just in time for the first baggage train and they gave me a pass to travel in the van. I found Miss Lawrence to my great delight at the hospital where she had obtained the post of Night Sister, and Miss Gordon had given me the post of Sister to the Maternity Wards. I did staff nurse's duty in Lanyon for six weeks to help Miss Couch and loved being there. It is such a pretty ward and so beautifully kept. She is so dainty in all her ways, and everything is very up-to-date. One of her wards at present is given up to officers, and she has had some fearful cases. She and Sister Medical have just gone for a badly-needed holiday. Miss Gordon looks as if she wants one, too. The wards are sweet! Six private wards and one for coloured people, with a bed and sitting-room for the Sister and two pupils' rooms, besides offices. A pretty stoep runs all round, on which I am cultivating flowers, and Sister Couch has just given me a canary which sings away in a shady corner.

### Pro Patria.

It is with much regret that we record the death, from enteric fever, at Bloemfontein, of Sister Stuart Jones, of the Army Nursing Service, on May 15th. Yet with our regret is mingled a feeling of pride that the nurses of this country have shown themselves able and ready to serve it at this crisis, to the extent of laying down their lives on its behalf. The obligations of Empire are incumbent upon women as well as men, and they claim their right to face danger and death in the discharge of their duty.

### Colonial Nursing Association.

THE Annual Meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association was held, by permission of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, at Stafford House, on Tuesday afternoon last. In the unavoidable absence of the President of the Society, Lord Loch, the chair was taken by Earl Grey, who announced that Lord Loch had received a letter from H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, saying how truly sorry and disappointed she was to be unable to attend the meeting. Lord Grey, in moving the adoption of the report, emphasised the fact that the Association stood as a guarantee to the Colonies that well trained, certificated nurses would be supplied to them through its medium. This had been a great want in the past. Often there had been no lack of funds abroad, but there had been lack of organization at home, and there had been an absolutely needless sacrifice of life owing to the want of the care afforded only by nurses. In this connection may be noted that—according to the report, which publishes, we are glad to note, the names and qualifications of the nurses employed—two of these have had fever training only, one has been trained by a nursing institution and a special hospital, and one at a children's hospital and a chronic and convalescent home. In the majority of cases the training appears to be good, and the inadequacy in the cases to which we have alluded is, doubtless, due to the fact that the Nursing Committees, both in England and Scotland, have no representative member of the nursing profession upon them. Surely, Nursing Sub-Committees, if they are not absurdities, should be mainly recruited from the ranks of Superintendents of Nurse Training Schools. We commend this defect in the organization of this useful Association to the attention of Mrs. Piggott, and Mr. Chamberlain. We wonder it has escaped the notice of that astute politician so far, that the guarantee by amateurs, however well intentioned, of the professional suitability of candidates must be very slender. Another remark made by Lord Grey as evidence of the value of the work of the Association, was that in one colony to which two nurses were sent, they nursed in eight weeks four typhoid and three confinement cases! Need we say more to show the need for a professional element in the counsels of the Society.

The adoption of the report was seconded by Sir Squire Bancroft, and interesting speeches followed from the Bishop of Ripon, and General Sir George White, the latter, who received a hearty round of applause, was looking worn and ill.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)