

Army Nursing Notes.

The Central British Red Cross Committee has been advised by Sir John Furley, the Chief Commissioner of the British Red Cross Society at the seat of war, that owing to the advent of the cold weather certain articles of clothing are very urgently needed for the sick and wounded in South Africa. Sir John Furley asks that *every week* there may be despatched to him for the sick and wounded 600 pyjamas, 600 shirts, 4,000 lbs. of cake tobacco, 600 lbs. cut tobacco, and 300,000 cigarettes; while socks, slippers and thick lambs wool drawers are also known to be much needed. As it will be impossible to get a sufficient quantity of these articles presented gratuitously in time, it is necessary that a large proportion should be purchased. Subscriptions for that purpose will be, therefore, very gratefully received, but Viscount Knutsford and the Central Executive Committee will be greatly indebted if the Centres, Branches, and working parties, of the St. John Ambulance Association will, besides if possible collecting funds, send contributions of pyjamas, shirts, socks and slippers, made in accordance with the following instructions:

As there is an impression in some quarters that parcels sent to the seat of war for the troops do not reach their destination, owing to the difficulty of transport, it may be remarked that bales and other packages for the sick and wounded, sent out under the Red Cross, are given precedence over all other stores, other than munitions of war and provisions.

All parcels should be sent, carriage paid, to:—
The St. John Ambulance Association,
c/o Messrs. Barnes and Co., Ltd.,
Battle Bridge Lane,
Tooley Street London, E.C.

At the last meeting of the Committee of Management of the Cardiff Infirmary, Miss Wilson, the Matron, stated in a letter that she had been asked by the War Office if she could go to South Africa if selected, and also if she could take any fully-trained nurses with her. The great demand was owing to the typhoid epidemic, which would probably be over in a few months, and they could return to work with renewed vigour. Some of the nurses were anxious to go, but she and they were in the hands of the Committee. If they allowed her to go, the Night Sister could act as Matron and a senior nurse could do the latter's work. After some discussion, a resolution was unanimously carried that the Matron be allowed leave of absence for

the purpose of going to South Africa, and that she be permitted to take two or three nurses if necessary, the arrangements to be left in the hands of the House Committee.

From all quarters reliable reports come of the high pressure under which our Sisters at the front are working, owing to the terrible epidemic of enteric fever at many military stations. The Yeomanry Hospital at Deelfontein has increased its beds by 330, and the Portland Hospital has sent up 60 additional beds, and its nursing staff, which was very limited, has been increased.

Lady Roberts, the energetic help-meet of the Commander-in-Chief, has opened the ball-room at the Residency at Bloemfontein for the treatment of 34 wounded. We hear Sister Beadsmore-Smith (Sister Sitwell of Bart's) is in charge of the nursing, and Mr. Anthony Bowlby, the popular Bart's surgeon, is acting as consulting surgeon.

There are upwards of 1,000 sick and wounded soldiers at Kimberley. There is a base hospital of 800 beds, just started, which is full; the Masonic Hall is full, the drill hall also, the Civilian Hospital and Nazareth Home are full, all wanting help, in money or in kind.

Everyone in Manchester will learn with deep regret that the death has occurred, at Springfontein, of Professor Thomas Jones, F.R.C.S., of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, one of the principal surgeons and joint treasurer of the Welsh Hospital in South Africa.

A nurse, writing from the Yeomanry Hospital at Deelfontein, says:—

"We have been very busy since our hospital opened. Not many bad surgical cases, but so much enteric, for which, of course, we have special huts. We have only had fourteen deaths in the seven weeks, and they were all from enteric, and as we have over five hundred patients that is a very low death rate. I have been on night duty since we commenced work. I look after seventeen tents and a hut; that means about 160 patients. Of course, most of them are convalescent, but I have to visit each tent every hour during the night, so I get very little spare time. It is nice on a fine night walking round the camp, but when it rains, as it does here, it is far from pleasant. We are all having such trouble with our boots and shoes; this rough ground wears them out so quickly, and there is no chance of getting them mended here; it is our greatest trouble. We, of course, find the nights very cold, but we have cavalry coats to wear when on duty, and we find them a great comfort. The days are still very hot."

This "boot" question has been brought to our notice by a number of persons, and it seems

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