

the sport of amateurs once too often, considering how many of them are in their graves.

Sisters going to the front who have asked us about their kit, have invariably been advised to take plenty of useful underclothing, but only *uniform for outside wear*. Surely, as the Sisters sent to the front are going on active service, and to very exhaustive duty, they will not need garments other than their uniform; and yet, we regret to hear from an eye-witness, that only last week, when in Harrod's Stores, she saw a large contingent of nurses, from one of the leading training schools, who had been selected for service in Africa, very busy buying evening gowns and shoes to take to the front! and evidently they meant to have a "real good time!"

The Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., who has just returned from the front, stated to a Liverpool Press representative that, as regarded the hospital accommodation for the sick and wounded, the requirements had been under-estimated from the beginning. This question very much resembled the manner in which the War Office had conducted the whole war. Having started with inadequate provision, they had practically been scrambling to try and catch it up ever since. He was glad to see that a commission had been appointed to investigate the question. In regard to the Royal Army Medical Corps, he considered the system bad. Passing to the statement by Mr. Treves that Society ladies visiting hospitals were a plague, he said such a remark was absolutely disgraceful. The help given by these ladies in hospitals, as well as on refugee committees, was invaluable. The hospitals would have been in a worse state but for their efforts.

The Press Association is informed that the ladies of the Executive Committee of the American hospital ship *Maine* have placed the ship at the disposal of the Government for service in China, instead of South Africa. This offer has been gladly accepted by the Government, who believe that the *Maine* will be of greater use in Chinese waters than at the Cape. The Committee hopes to dispatch the *Maine* within the next ten days. It is deeply to be regretted that she sails again without the inestimable help of women nurses.

We gather, from correspondents in the States, that much indignation has been aroused in nursing circles owing to the exclusion of women nurses from service on the *Maine* by Lady Randolph Churchill and her Committee, and, moreover, that the American nursing world is of opinion that, had Miss Hibbard and the American nurses been

recognised when on duty as professional women, and not in the light of domestic servants, that they would have made a second voyage. The position of professional authority assumed by Lady Randolph Churchill, and the consequent lack of discipline, is advanced as the reason of the disorganization. In our opinion—under the circumstances—such a result was inevitable, and American nurses have our sympathy in this matter. The *Maine* went forth on a serious mission to save health and life. From all accounts, she was utilised, in some measure, as a pleasure yacht. We hope the rumour that, upon her first return, she was retained at Madeira to enable some of those on board to attend a Ball, although a dying man was anxious to reach home alive, is not true. Anyway, the poor fellow died at sea.

The Red Cross Society of Japan, the members of which are tending at Saseho the hundred officers and men of the International force who were wounded in the Taku engagement, was founded in 1877, at the time of the insurrection in the south-west provinces. It was known originally as Hakuoisha, or Society of Benevolence, but being afterwards put in connection with the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva, its name was changed to that of the Red Cross Society of Japan. With the sanction of the Emperor, who is one of its patrons, the Society has the power of conferring the decoration of merit known as Nippon Sekijujisha Yukosho upon any person who shall have rendered conspicuous service or shall have made a donation of not less than a thousand yen.

It is reported from Tientsin that altogether 500 wounded occupy the hospitals there. The Queen's Jubilee Hospital, being in an exposed position outside the settlement, is, however, useless. Provisions are scarce, buildings ruined, and there are no native servants to be had, so that nurses have a fine field of work before them in China.

Poor Mary Kingsley, whose sense of humour was so infectious, was much amused at the nursing types she encountered in Cape Town. One good lady, in charge of a responsible position on a hospital ship through social influence, proved deplorably inefficient, and, in a moment of exasperation, the medical officer called for her credentials. Miss Kingsley, who witnessed the scene, says, "It drew itself up, and, in high dudgeon, exclaimed, 'Credentials, indeed—I have worked as a certificated midwife for twenty-one years!'"

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)