

the necessity for safeguarding both the public and ourselves as nurses, from becoming the victims of either half-trained women, or of adventuresses who use our name and uniform for purposes which disgrace both.

Lastly, each Matron can do something to help the general advance of her fellow nurses by upholding the real dignity of the work we are called to do. We must try more and more to educate our probationers, to enlarge their idea of the nature of the work that lies before, and thus prepare them to go beyond what we have been able to do, though at the same time it seems to me, if we take a broad view of the general state of nursing work, we must thankfully acknowledge that, even in the last decade of the nineteenth century, vast progress has been made in the direction towards which we are striving to press forward. Take, for instance, the length of training and the granting of certificates with examinations; take the Union Infirmaries, see how *they* have improved their standard, both as to the nurses themselves and as to their education. Many an excellent nurse now is unnoticed because of the increased efficiency of the vast majority. Is not this, after all, the greatest encouragement for the future of our profession. We must not be discouraged by the length of the way; we may not see, but surely the next generation will see, the existing hindrances removed—at least, that is my belief, because I hold firmly that what is right and just must in the end prevail, and if we are fighting for a cause which is right and just, then we, too, must, in the end, be victors, and we will say then, with the hero of another struggle, "It does not matter who did it, or how they did it, provided it was done."

### The Portland Hospital.

We are requested by Major-General the Hon. Herbert Eaton, to state that the Portland Hospital staff are now on their way home in charge of the invalids on the transport *Canada*, which is due at Southampton early on Saturday morning the 18th inst.

Dr. Howard Tooth, most popular of medical men, is in charge of the staff. It is pleasant to hear that Nursing Sister Pretty (who has been seriously ill with enteric fever) is quite convalescent. Sister Cox-Davies (Sister Faith of Bart's) is not returning at present, as she has been transferred to work at Pretoria.

The work done by the Portland Hospital has been excellent, and the certain welcome which awaits its returning staff has been well earned.

### Army Nursing Notes.

Last week the Queen paid a visit to the Seamen's Homes, East Cowes, at present used as a convalescent home for men invalided from Africa. Her Majesty was accompanied by the Princess of Wales, the Duchess of York, Princess Henry of Battenberg, and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein.

Princess Christian and Princess Henry of Battenberg, with Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, paid a private visit to Netley Hospital on Tuesday last.

By the courtesy of the Secretary of State for War, we are authorized to state that the following nurses of the Army Nursing Service Reserve will embark for South Africa about the 20th inst.:—  
Nursing Sisters A. G. Wason, C. Meany, R. M. Browse, A. R. Chitty, M. C. Meeke, M. Everett, E. S. Owen, F. E. Ridgley, A. Matheson, M. Parsons, M. Johnstone, M. E. Richardson, D. B. Hyland, T. H. Roberts, A. Mackenzie, M. Forrest, E. M. Mazzuchi, M. J. Hutcheson, E. M. Beetham, A. M. Guttridge, E. Gray, A. Jones, E. L. Cash, A. E. Holmes, A. E. Howard, G. Black, E. M. Sutton, L. A. Clarke.

We published last week an unfinished letter from the late Miss Mary Kingsley, sent to the *Times* by Miss Flora Shaw. This has been supplemented by Miss Alice Stopford Green, by further extracts from a letter from Miss Kingsley to herself. Prominent amongst the many bereavements of the war the loss we have suffered in the premature deaths of that brilliant journalist George W. Steevens, and of Miss Mary Kingsley, intrepid traveller, charming writer and speaker, and the best of comrades, is fresh in all our minds. Let us at least gather up the lessons which they teach us. This is what Miss Kingsley says about the epidemic at the Simon's Town Hospital:—

"The plain truth was this terrific outburst of camp fever broke out among Cronje's men, who for over a week had been living underground with dead men and horses, and drinking the decoction thereof. The fever burst out just when science could have told the authorities it would; but science, as I have said before, is not attended to, so the authorities were unprepared. They did what they could, they spared no expense, they poured forth brandy, milk, eggs, champagne, &c., they wrote miles on miles on paper, they worked a few individual officials to death *more suo*; the wretched doctor and the two only nurses they had to tackle the outburst were nearly done for when I arrived. I have been nearly done for since; but now we have two more doctors and three more nurses, and a lot more orderlies and Army Service men on the job, and the work is getting organised; but to-day I have had over

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