

lines of communication under Sir James Willcocks in the late Ashanti Campaign, and necessarily the hospitals were established on these lines of communication. Our casualty list from wounds and disease was a very heavy one. They were operating in a country notorious for its unhealthiness, during the most unhealthy season. Of all the Europeans passing through the hospitals they lost not one. If he was speaking to them there that day he owed it to two nurses who had him one after the other as patient, and nursed him through his sickness."

This personal testimony to the good work of nurses far from the influence of home is right royal reading. We love to record it.

At the brilliant gathering lately held in Dublin to witness the distribution of South African medals by the Lord Lieutenant the recipients who received a thunderous welcome were the members of the Hospital Corps, drawn up under the command of Sir William Thompson, who acted as Surgeon-in-Chief.

The distinguished surgeon, who was in charge of the men during their term of active service, and who already holds other medals for his valuable services, was amongst the first to receive the decoration for the South African campaign, and both he and Dr. Stoker, who very efficiently performed the duties of second in command of the Hospital Corps, were accorded hearty applause on coming forward to receive their well-merited distinctions.

Two ladies, Miss MacDonnell, Lady Superintendent of the Richmond Hospital, who acted as Matron, and Miss M'Gonigal, one of the nursing sisters, both of whom shared the hardships of the campaign, were also present with the corps, and received their decorations amid much enthusiasm.

The other members of the Hospital, some of whom were dressed in khaki, some in civilian dress, and some in the uniform of the Royal Irish Constabulary, which furnished a large percentage of the members of the corps, were then in turn presented with medals, after which the formal part of the ceremony concluded.

It may interest our readers to know what is considered a festive diet on Christmas Day in far away Corea. We read in a contemporary of a Christmas breakfast given to Coreans consisting of soup and rice and "panchan," the last consisting of various kinds of peppery, tasty relishes to help the rice down. Both Britishers and Germans keep up the time honoured custom of a

Christmas Tree. Are Corean women still "enclosed" we wonder. We read, "When the Christmas tree had been lit the first view (a private one) was vouchsafed to the wives of our friends, who brought their babies with them, and wondered what it all meant. This they were to learn from their male relatives later, for whom, after they had been dismissed with a sweet apiece, they made room. The boys occupied the front places, so that the men could see over their heads. The tree was laden with presents, and we were careful that none of the boys drew a blank. The tree looked beautiful, and was an unqualified success."

## Legal Matters.

MARTIN v. ALLEN.

A curious libel action, remitted from Derby, was concluded after three days' trial at the Leeds Assizes on Saturday before Mr. Justice Grantham, Miss Elizabeth Martin, formerly Matron of the Belper Isolation Hospital, claiming damages from Dr. Grammer Allen, the medical superintendent.

Miss Martin, it was shown, had called the attention of Dr. Allen to what she described as his unprofessional conduct to nurses. In July, 1900, the doctor wrote to the Hospital Committee a letter in which, referring to Miss Martin, he said she was absolutely unfitted for the responsible position in which she was placed. He added: "She appears to think that this building is erected for her sole use and benefit, and is a convenient centre for friendly visitation and dissemination of idle gossip." Petty annoyance by the Matron, he said, made life miserable, and he added: "Her manner to me has been most impertinent. I have received more insolence from her in six months than in all my experience with nurses for a quarter of a century." He complained also that she had practically monopolised the ambulance for driving out.

It was considered by Miss Martin's counsel absurd to suggest that she used the ambulance for carriage exercise, but the Judge remarked that he had heard before now of people, for economy's sake, going out in a hearse.

The letter containing the libel was published in the Press, and led to the dismissal of Miss Martin.

The defence was that the letter was privileged, and secondly that it was substantially correct. A number of nurses and others were examined.

The Judge congratulated the jury on not having been among the happy family in the Isolation Hospital; they found a verdict for Miss Martin for £100.

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