

In February, enteric fever cases began to come down. The fever was generally of a very malignant type, being often complicated with pneumonia and early severe head symptoms, while I have seen the body so covered with spots one couldn't put the proverbial "pin" between them. The treatment was generally ice-caps, sponge-baths, and cold packs for temperature, poultices for pneumonia, tincture monson. ovat. and ergotine for hæmorrhages. The diet was fresh milk, Benger's Food, beef-tea—where there was no diarrhoea—and egg switches, while some doctors included rice, biscuits, soft-boiled eggs, &c., from the start, with very favourable results. We had many inoculated cases, which generally ran a mild and irregular course of fever. In my service I did not lose any of these cases, except in one instance where there had been no reaction from the inoculation.

We were singularly fortunate at Rondebosch in our results. During the six months' service there, including medical and surgical cases of our own and the Portland hospital, we had but thirty deaths. But here at the base we always had good air, plenty of good water, with an abundance of fresh milk, eggs, and ice. The general hospital fare was excellent, and added to this we received daily quantities of fruit and dainties sent by the Red Cross Committee of the Colony, besides many medical comforts from England.

In May we were ordered up country, and were the first sisters to reach Kroonstadt, O.R.C., stopping *en route* at Springfontein and Bloemfontein. At the latter place enteric fever and dysentery were raging, the hospitals, of which there were three general and many smaller ones, being all crowded, No. 9 having, we were told, 1,800 patients. All persons and supplies were being taxed to the utmost. In Kroonstadt we had our hardest taste of active service. Lord Roberts' and Lord Methuen's forces had just passed through, leaving sick and wounded in large numbers.

Owing to the congested state of the lines of communication, our hospital equipment was delayed a few days in reaching Kroonstadt. The Dutch church, hotels, Staat Huis, &c., were quickly converted into hospitals, where we made the patients as comfortable as possible. Fresh milk was very hard to get—an officer's servant was shot dead by the Boers in his effort to get some at a farm near by—but of condensed milk, beef-tea, champagne, and jelly we had plenty.

When our hospital arrived it was pitched on the outskirts of the town, and close beside it the Scottish National, a beautifully-equipped hospital just sent out. The weather was now very cold at night, the frost being thick both inside and out of our single bell tents—the patients, being in double marquees, did not feel the cold so much. We were scarce of water, and lived on rations which an orderly

cooked for us on a fire on the veldt, dinner being a movable and uncertain feast on a rainy day. Around our camp, within fifty yards, were several six-inch guns, while we had prepared in a donga a place of safety for helpless patients and a bomb-proof shelter for all the hospital staff in case of attack, which for some time threatened us daily. Hanging in our mess was a copy of orders to be observed when attacked, &c. Several mornings we wakened to hear the boom of guns, which, however, were never near enough to necessitate our using the shelter.

Here the mortality was much greater than at the Cape. The men—their health being greatly undermined by the hard campaign, after drinking the waters of the Modder, contaminated with the Boer dead—fell easy victims to disease, and they were in a poor state to stand the ravages of South African enteric fever.

Sad indeed was the now familiar sight of fatigue parties bearing aloft the stretcher containing its silent burden covered by the Union Jack, and still more sad the ever-increasing number of little mounds on the veldt. After two months in Kroonstadt we received orders for Pretoria, where we were attached to the staff of the Irish hospital sent out by Lord Iveagh. Here the service became much lighter, enteric fever being greatly on the wane.

After completing a year's service, we Canadian sisters received ten days' leave of absence, which was spent going through Natal, stopping at all places of interest. We met officers, civil surgeons, and sisters who had been through the siege of Ladysmith, whose account of their hardships, including diet and danger, made me feel as though we had little to bear in comparison.

In November we left for the Cape, spending our last month at No 1 Wynberg pending embarkation for Canada, which we reached on January 8th, 1901, after nearly fifteen months' absence.

I cannot close this paper without speaking of the great kindness with which we were received on all sides. We had with our troops a most enthusiastic reception at the Cape upon our arrival. By the Royal Army Medical Corps, from the Surgeon-General down to the humblest orderly, we were invariably treated with the greatest courtesy and respect; by the army nursing sisters with great consideration and kindness; while among the nursing reserve, of whom there were about 800 in South Africa, we made many friends, meeting sisters trained at the London, St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, and many other well-known standard hospitals, whose reputations are well maintained by the work of their nurses in South Africa. We had the privilege of meeting many distinguished physicians and surgeons of the old country, under whom it was a pleasure to serve. The work of the Red Cross was excellent, and great was the timely aid we often received from it;

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