

while the kindly gift or word sent or given by the private individual often made one think of the "touch of nature that makes the whole world kin." We found Tommy Atkins a very good patient and a fine fellow; always grateful, generally cheerful, bearing loss of limb, loss of health, and many other minor discomforts with a fortitude that realised our best ideal of British pluck; while his consideration for the presence of the sister was at times quite touching. He is very entertaining during convalescence, often writing verses, sometimes in eulogy of the sisters and again in descriptions of battles, &c., and making all kinds of curiosities, those having had service in India, doing beautiful work. I am the proud possessor of several specimens both of verse and handicraft which I value greatly. Above all, he loves tobacco and cigarettes, but enjoys any attention. A lady while at Rondebosch gave me one day in the ward a bundle of handkerchiefs and a pint bottle of white-rose scent. A few minutes later I heard: "Sister, I'd thank you for a clean handkerchief, please; and a drop of that scent on it, sister, please," until all with energy to notice anything were supplied; and, even after the fancy handkerchiefs had to be replaced by the regulation kit article, a liberal dose of the "ripping scent" would be daily called for.

In conclusion, I would say that I ever deemed it a great privilege to aid in caring for the sick and wounded, and while the hardships necessarily endured in such a campaign have faded from my mind, I still often seem to hear the "Thank you, sister," of the grateful soldier; while together with pleasant memories of large convoys of happy convalescents sent home comes the vision of the many sad graves left on the far-off veldt of South Africa.

"Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine; et lux perpetua luceat eis."

("Grant to them thine eternal rest, O God; and in the light everlasting may they dwell.")

### Three Graves.

[I have just met the N—s, from Mossel Bay. Even at Mossel Bay—it must be about the southernmost point touched by the fighting—the war has left them three graves to care for. They were speaking of your "Inscriptions for Stones in South Africa" in the "Monthly Review," and wishing they had some lines to fit these three graves—an oddly assorted little company—a lieutenant of the gunboat which defended Mossel Bay, a stoker of the same, and a poor old black man, "Sam," who was shot by the Boers.—EXTRACT FROM A LETTER.]

Here ebb'd the tide of war. Ebbing, the waves  
Thus far to southward left three quiet graves,  
Lieutenant—stoker—each performed the task  
That ENGLAND set. No more could NELSON ask.  
The third, a poor black man, with scarce a name,  
Lies, theirs and Nelson's comrade, by like claim.  
For us what task? A light one. Who'so died  
For HER, to tend their graves with equal pride.

F. E. G.

(Westminster Gazette).

## The Victorian Trained Nurses' Association.

The objects and rules of the Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, the formation of which we announced a few months ago, are now before us, and we most heartily congratulate the founders on its organisation. It was inaugurated at a meeting of nurses representative of hospitals (public, private, and special), nurses' homes, and nurses generally, and its rules and objects are the result of their deliberations. The first Council, which was duly elected by the nurses themselves, represents the nursing and medical professions and the public.

The Association has, it is stated by the Council, been established in the interests alike of the public, the nurses, and the medical profession. For the public, it aims at securing efficient nursing in all forms of disease, and providing a reliable means of discriminating between the trained and the untrained. For the nurses it inaugurates a system of registration upon a sound basis, and introduces a uniform curriculum of training and examination. And to the medical profession it offers the welcome opportunity of placing the great question of public and private nursing upon a satisfactory footing.

The Association and the Council therefore confidently invite the active co-operation of all *bonâ fide* nurses, and the cordial recognition and assistance of the medical profession, in order to deserve, and obtain, the appreciative support of the general public.

#### OBJECTS.

The objects of the Association are:—

1. To establish a system of registration for trained nurses.
2. To promote the interests of trained nurses—male and female—in all matters affecting their work.
3. To establish a uniform system of training and examination for nurses.
4. To afford opportunities for discussing subjects bearing on the work of nursing.
5. In due course to arrange for schemes that will afford to nurses a means of providing an allowance during incapacity for work caused by sickness, accident, age, or other necessitous circumstances.

#### CONSTITUTION AND MANAGEMENT.

The governing body of the Association is a Council, which consists of a President, a Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer, two Hon. Secretaries, and ten members (of whom two are duly qualified Medical Practitioners, four Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses, two Sisters and Nurses, and two Honorary Members).

The management of the Association is vested in the governing body, which has power to appoint such committees as may from time to time be

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