

deep meat tray, or a wide-mouthed sweet bottle.

The days were very hot and trying, and I remember one man saying to me at bed-making time: "Lor, Sister, how you are a sweating!" I was; and I also remember one sad week when I bought six pairs of shoes to try to find one I could wear with any comfort. Mosquitoes and other "bugs," in the American and English sense of the word, made the nights short and weary. You started hopefully each night by hunting round your net and sprinkling the sheets with Keating (Oh! that smell!) and just as you were dropping to sleep you heard the peculiar zing of the wily mosquito which had escaped you. You pretended you didn't hear, that he wouldn't bite, but the irritation of the sound soon conquered sleep and you got a lighted candle inside the net, a rather dangerous remedy, in the hope of burning his wings.

No, it was by no means all fun at that time, there were no picnics, and little time for sociabilities. We went for work and we got it.

I did not love those casual acquaintances who asked me on returning "did you have a good time and enjoy it?" Those of us who worked at first in Wynberg and later in Bloemfontein did not have a good time in that sense at all.

We often met interesting people. One day we had just taken in a convoy of wounded from Paardeberg, and a visitor stopped and spoke to me. The reply was, I hope, courteous, but brief, and I thought, "I wish people would not come at these busy times." After, one of the men said: "'E's the soldier's friend, 'e is" and I found "'e" was Rudyard Kipling. Had I known who it was, I fear I might have sacrificed a few more minutes. Of a different sort was the lady from Cape Town who fed my pet dysentery and appendicitis with plum buns! She was not as helpful as she wished to be, but others were, and showed their kindness in a really practical way. Ladies round Wynberg found out the sort of food wanted for the sick, and for many months one room was set aside for dainties such as new-laid eggs, blancmanges, jellies, fruit and custards. The pleasant part was that those not well off were able to contribute too, and they did this not once, but for many months. The general spirit all round was to help where they could, as the following anecdote will illustrate. I was trying to find a certain big florist's garden to get flowers for the hospital, and by mistake got into a wrong garden. The owner, a stalwart Scot, asked me to gather what I liked, sent out a dainty tea by a dainty black maid, and on

being thanked, said: "He had served in the Zulu War, and was only too glad to do anything."

At first, the Regular Army doctors and sisters had a good-natured contempt for our civilian ways, but we soon shook down and all worked cheerfully together. As time went on and general hospitals were sent nearer the front, Wynberg became more and more a convalescent camp, and eight of the First Reserve Sisters there were ordered to Bloemfontein.

(To be continued.)

### A Standard for Matrons.

The following regulations have been issued by order of the Council of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association.

#### CERTIFICATE OF TECHNICAL FITNESS FOR MATRONS.

In order to secure increased efficiency in the future Matrons of recognised Training Schools, the Council has formulated certain requirements, and will in future give a certificate of Technical Fitness for Matronship to all Nurses on the General Register who present the following evidence of extra qualification, viz.:—

(a) Certificate of twelve months' post-graduate responsible work as Staff Nurse or Sister in a recognised Training School.

(b) The Certificates of Instruction in Cookery and in Dietetics and Household Economy of the Education Department of Victoria, arranged for Probationers and Nurses.

(c) A Certificate of Post-graduate Instruction, with practical demonstrations in hospital management, organisation and equipment, the organisation of ward and domestic work, the organisation and management of Training Schools, and other requirements of hospital administration by a properly appointed teacher or teachers.

Due notice will be given of such appointments in Melbourne, in sub-centres, and wherever practicable, in approved Training Schools.

By way of test, the candidate will be required to write an approved paper upon some question of hospital administration.

In the case of nurses whose names are placed on the General Register *on or after July 1st, 1905*, there will also be required:—

(d) The Special Nursing Certificates of the Association in Obstetric and Infectious Diseases' Nursing.

It is also recommended that candidates for this Certificate obtain some experience in private nursing. In lieu of any of the foregoing, similar Certificates approved by the Council of the Association will be accepted.

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