

just for fear of offending the big-wigs or shop keepers in the locality."

We fear there is now little hope during this War of efficient nursing standards being introduced in the hospitals in question, or justice for trained workers, as the present system is approved and encouraged by the Army Medical Department at the War Office.

An Australian nurse encloses the following list of the cost of their equipment for active service, and writes, "We are very grieved to delete from wear our smart little red capes, but it is advanced that it confuses us on duty with Imperial Sisters."

THE COST OF EQUIPMENT.

The following is the list of articles supplied by the Defence Department to Australian Nurses on active service:—

	Prices.
Grey Skirt and Blouse (Outdoor Uniform)	£2 10 0
1 Rainproof Overcoat (Grey Macintosh)	2 0 0
1 Grey Cape
1 Grey Cloak	3 15 0
2 Red Capes, at 6s. each	0 12 0
1 Pair Grey Gloves	2 0 0
1 Bonnet	1 0 0
2 State Buttons, at 3s. each	0 6 0
2 Badges, at 3s. 6d. each	0 7 0
1 Commonwealth Brooch	5 0 0
2 Brassards, at 9d. each	0 1 6
6 Collars, at 10d. each	0 5 0
6 Pairs of Cuffs, at 10d. pair	0 5 0
4 Zephyr Squares for Caps, at 2s. 6d. each	0 10 0
3 Zephyr Dresses (Grey), at 16s. each	2 8 0
4 Grey Aprons, at 3s. 3d. each	0 13 0
8 White Linen Aprons, at 4s. 6d. each	1 16 0
3 Grey Belts, at 6d. each	0 1 6
3 White Belts, at 6d. each	0 1 6
1 Hold-all	1 0 0
1 Tin Cabin Trunk	1 10 0
1 Pair Boots (Black)	1 0 0
3 Red Cross Arm Bands, at 6d. each .. .	0 1 6
Trimmings Allowance	0 10 0
	£21 0 0

Other articles, such as mess furniture (plates, knives, forks, &c.), sheets, blankets, and pillow cases, are all supplied by the Defence Department.

SALARY—A.I.F., FOR ACTIVE SERVICE.

Matron, 12s. 6d. per diem; Sister, 9s. per diem; Staff Nurse, 7s. per diem.

ALLOWANCES (ALL RANKS).

2s. 6d. per diem mess allowance, when food not supplied. £16 per annum for renewal of clothes, 3s. per diem when board and lodging not provided whilst in Australia, for nurses returning with invalids.

PENSION RIGHTS.

As for soldiers on similar rate of pay. Total incapacity: About £56, £64, and £76 per annum for staff nurse, Sister and Matron respectively.

It is now pointed out to the nurses that though they receive that 7s. a day, their salary is really

£60 per annum, as the balance between £127 per annum (which is the amount at 7s. a day) and the £60 salary received, is paid to the caterer in Egypt. The allowance of 2s. 6d. per day mess allowance is paid to the mess.

THE LITTLE RED TIPPET.

From the fair sunny land where the wattle is blooming,

The pale golden wattle, the flower of the free,
The Lassies in Grey, dainty, sweet, unassuming,
With hearts full of pity, came over the sea
To the mystical East, to the sands of the Desert,
The heat of the noontide, the glare of the day;
Where the boys of Australia, sore wounded in battle,

Awaited their coming—those Lassies in Grey.

They longed for a sight of the little red tippet;
The boys who lay stricken at close of the day.

The tippet, the tippet, the little red tippet,
The badge of the brave, bonnie Lassies in Grey.

From the north and the south, from the east and the west,

From village 'way out back, from city and town,
The clarion call, "We have need of the best,
The boys of Australia are helpless and down,"
Was answered by hundreds—a message love-laden
Was wafted far eastward: "The Lassies in Grey,
The brave, bonnie lassies, both matron and maiden,
Will succour the boys who have fall'n in the fray."

The boys saw the tippet, the little red tippet,
The boys who lay stricken at close of the day,

And their weary eyes smiled on the little red tippet,
The badge of the brave, bonnie Lassies in Grey.

In the hospital wards of the gay eastern city,
Where the boys of Australia, in strife with the Turk,

Lie shattered and torn—dear God! what a pity
That men should so mutilate Thy handiwork:
But thy sons, O! Australia, are cheerful and smiling,

And heed not their pain nor the long, weary day,
For they have the tippet, the little red tippet,
And are nursed by thy daughters—the Lassies in Grey.

The boys love the tippet, the little red tippet,
The tippet that's worn—in the usual way;
When sunbeams are glancing its charm is enhancing

The forms of the brave, bonnie Lassies in Grey.

From *Una* (the Journal of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association).

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