

Chitral.

A NURSING ECHO.

FOR nearly three weeks past the military community in India, especially that part of it which is quartered in the stations near the northern frontier, has been thrilling with excitement over the expedition to Chitral. The troops selected for active service are now all ready and concentrated close to the frontier, and they are to make their start to-morrow, April 1st.

To be in the midst of eager preparations for departure on such an occasion as this, to see the regiments with which one has been associated for months, march out of barracks with loud cheers, the Highlanders with their pipes playing, and every man of every regiment keen and eager to be off, is to share in the general fever of excitement, and to share personally in the earnest hopes and fears for their success and their safety with an intensity and a vividness that those at a distance can hardly realise.

Also as members of the army Nursing service we have a special share in some of the preparations. It is intended to divide the "Base Hospital" among several of the larger stations within easy reach of the frontier. Two hundred and fifty beds are already prepared at Peshawar, and will be under the charge of the four Nursing Sisters who are stationed there. The rest will perhaps be here at Rawal Pindi, and, no doubt, special and temporary Hospital accommodation will be arranged for nearer the actual frontier passes over which the field force will have crossed. So far the orders for the final arrangements have not yet been issued, except with regard to Peshawar, therefore we do not know if we may be employed here in our own station or sent to temporary Hospitals nearer the frontier, nor how many Nursing Sisters may be sent up from stations down country to help, should the press of work be very severe. Everything as yet lies in the vague future, but that there will be work and plenty of it, is, I fear, a certainty that admits of no doubt.

Umra Khan has declared the Jihad or religious war, and some of the most warlike tribes on the frontier are under his standard, and he himself is the most formidable chief who has fought against us since the last Afghan war. Then apart from the results of possible fighting the hot weather is coming on, and the troops must be marched without tents, and almost without baggage, to increase their speed and to diminish their impedimenta in the very difficult country through which they will have to force their way; and in all wars more men succumb to sickness than to wounds.

Transport will be arranged along the line of communications by which sick and wounded will be rapidly returned to our own frontier, and it is not contemplated at present to establish any kind of an advanced base Hospital in the enemy's country. Under these circumstances, of course, Nursing Sisters cannot possibly be sent beyond the frontier, but must be content to share in the labour which will come within their reach, and that will afford ample scope for organisation and hard work, both on the part of the medical officers attached to the base, and on the part of the Nurses as well.

A large number of Medical Officers, assistant surgeons, and native ward servants have been necessarily withdrawn from this and many other Hospitals for service in the field. Almost all the orderlies employed here belonged to the regiments ordered to the front, and they have rejoined their regiments, and have gone of course. Fresh orderlies have been supplied for the Hospital work, and are beginning to shake down into their places, but the regiment to which they belong (the Rifle Brigade) has already been warned to mobilise, in case a reserve force should be required; and should they also be ordered to the front, we shall again lose all our men, just when they are beginning to know and understand their work, and others must again be taught.

In any case, there will be plenty to do, and every nerve will be stretched to help the men who have readily and joyfully gone out to risk their lives in the name of their Queen and Country.

C. G. LOCH,

Lady Superintendent of Nurses,
Indian Army.Rawal Pindi,
March 31st, 1895.**Royal British Nurses' Association.***(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)*

THE Quarterly Meeting of the General Council, Sir James Crichton Browne in the chair, took place at the Offices, on Friday, the 19th inst., at 5 p.m. The meeting was largely attended, and a lengthy discussion took place. At 7 p.m. the meeting was adjourned until Friday, May 10th.

A meeting of the Registration Board was held on Friday, the 26th inst.

WOMEN AS LECTURERS.

MISS ANNESLEY KENEALY gave the last lecture of the season at the Royal British Nurses' Association on Friday the 19th, and selected the above as her subject. Dr. Gage-Brown was in the chair, and there was a good attendance of members and others.

Miss Kenealy said she proposed, like the Scotch

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