

Nurses of Note.

SUPT. SISTER J. A. GRAY.

BON VOYAGE.

ON Sunday morning last a stately vessel steamed proudly out of the Royal Albert Docks, down the river to act as a floating Hospital for the troops now going to Ashanti. This graceful ship, painted pure white, encircled by a crimson line on which the name *Coromandel* was boldly marked on the bows in gold, had also her transport No. 7, painted large in black on either side.

On the previous day, amidst general enthusiasm, the *Coromandel*, the hospital and transport ship, was inspected by the Commander-in-Chief, and later in the day, when she was anchored in the basin for the night, a limited number of friends of those ordered on active service, were permitted to go aboard to inspect her, and say a last "good-bye."

Here we found Superintendent Sister J. A. Gray, and Sisters McCurdy and Potts, of Her Majesty's Nursing service, all in the best of spirits, and eager for active service, and naturally delighted with the arrangements which had been made for the care of the sick and their own personal comfort. A bouquet of chrysanthemums in lovely shades of gold and white was presented by Superintendent Sister Sidney Browne, of the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, to her distinguished colleague before she was conducted over the *Coromandel*.

It is almost impossible to realise that Sister Gray, who possesses a charming personality, is the senior Nurse in the service, having entered Netley Hospital twenty-two years ago. Sister Gray was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, under Miss M. Merryweather (a name much honoured in the Nursing world). In 1879, she first saw active service, during the Zulu war; in 1882 she was again ordered abroad, and took part in the Nursing of the sick during the Egyptian war, and was away nearly four years, being sent after the war upon the Gordon Relief Expedition up the Nile to

Wady Halfa, and later she nursed the soldiers through the epidemic of cholera which followed.

The heroic services of Sister Gray have been recognised by the Queen, who has conferred upon her the Royal Red Cross, and she is also entitled to wear the decorations won on active service, the Zulu and Egyptian war medals, and the Egyptian Cross.

Upon inspection, we found the ship had been touched with the fairy wand of modern science, and in a few weeks transposed into a perfect floating hospital. Each Sister has screened off quarters aft in the saloon, an electric kettle and stew pan being arranged close to these cabins so that hot water can be obtained at short notice.

The saloon is amidships, and far aft is the ordinary smoking saloon, which has been turned into a four-cot infectious ward. It is painted a light sea-green, and the iron cots will gently swing in a sea-way. Punkahs, which will be worked by machinery, are fitted over the cots, and these can be made more effective when required by pinning on to each a towel. Below, there are cots for twenty officers and ninety men, with a capacity for fifty additional ones when required, and hooks have been put in the deck framing for some 300 ordinary hammocks. The sick wards, like the infectious ward, are painted sea-green, and fitted with punkahs, and close by are two padded rooms for sunstroke cases.

Also, near by, is the dispensary, admirably fitted up, and an operating room with the most modern of operating tables, so constructed as to turn in all directions, and thus lessen the movement of the ship, and every appliance for sterilising dressings, and instruments, glass receivers for antiseptic lotions with movable taps, hot and cold water, condensed electric light all round, and movable lights to hold or hang anywhere near the operating table. The doors of the operating room open wide each side and close to the passage, making a door straight into what will probably be used as the surgical ward.

The ward for the officers is precisely the same as that provided for the men, only smaller, but it may be necessary to use some of the cabins



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