

now occupied by the officers for isolation cases. Nothing that experience, science, and money could provide, has been omitted. Baths, with hot and cold water, are arranged on every deck. The whole ship is lighted by electric light. The system of ventilation is admirable. Not only will all the ports be open after the ship has passed into low latitudes, but there runs throughout along each side of the main or troop deck—which is fitted with mess-tables accommodating ten to sixteen men, according to the space available—an exhaust by which the entire air contents of the deck can be changed at least six times in an hour. An ice machine is provided equal to the production of half a ton a day, and fresh meat is carried in a cold room. The cooks and stewards of the P. and O. Company are in charge of the culinary department, so that excellent cooking and service are secured—this department having been most efficiently organised on the same lines as on the *Ganges*. The medical comfort boxes are to contain brandy, whisky, champagne, arrowroot, pearl barley, extract of meat, Bovril, condensed milk, cocoa paste, tea, sugar, candles, soap, food condiments, coffee, pea soup, and various table utensils, while, in addition, there may be ordered as extras, port wine, calves'-feet jelly, solidified soup, and preserved fowl. Although it must be borne in mind that the actual Nursing of the sick is performed by orderlies, superintended by the Nursing Sisters, we are of opinion that the number of Sisters sent to the seat of war should have been somewhat augmented; sickness may attack these brave women, and a reserve of workers would be advisable. Otherwise, the Army Medical Department is to be sincerely congratulated upon the success of its efforts to prepare a model floating Hospital for the sick and wounded in war. The sick transport ashore will consist of 150 cots, 30 hammocks, and 50 stretchers. There is to be a stationary hospital of 60 beds at Prahsu, another of the same dimensions on the line of communications, and a base Hospital, with 75 beds, at Cape Coast Castle.

### Appointments.

MISS M. A. HEMPSEED has been appointed Matron of the Coatbridge Fever Hospital. She was trained at the Greenock Infirmary and Glasgow Maternity Hospital, and joined the staff of the Glasgow Sick Poor and Private Nursing Association. Miss Hempseed was appointed a Queen's Nurse in 1893.

Miss Helen Adelaide Mills has been appointed Sister in the Indian Army Service. She was trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, and is qualified for her new position, having been Sister of the "Christian Ward."

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)

### THE CONVERSAZIONE.



ONCE more, the birthday of our Association has come and gone. It was, as usual, appropriately celebrated at the eighth annual *Conversazione*, which was held in the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Oil Colours, Piccadilly, on Monday night. It was numerously attended, and was a thoroughly successful gathering. The guests were received by the Vice-Chairmen and Hon. Officers of the Corporation, and Sir James Crichton Browne announced that a communication had been received from Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, the President, to the effect that nothing less than a command to dine with the Queen had prevented her from being present. The general public was largely represented. There was a good attendance of members, and we were pleased to see present many of those ladies who helped to found the Association, and have worked so earnestly and successfully for it—Miss Isla Stewart and Sisters Lawrence, President, Casualty, Ophthalmic, Kenton, and Henry, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss Thorold, Middlesex Hospital; Miss Beachcroft, Lincoln County Hospital; Miss Rogers, The Infirmary, Leicester; Miss Mollett, Royal South Hants County Hospital, Southampton; Miss Sidney Browne, Superintendent Sister, Herbert Hospital, Woolwich; Miss Miriam Ridley, Matron of the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis; Miss Butler, Matron of the Samaritan Free Hospital; Miss Hughes, Matron, The Infirmary, Kensington; Miss Elma Smith, Matron, Central London Sick Asylum; Miss Row, Lady Superintendent, Children's Hospital, Shadwell; Miss Ambler Jones, Matron, South Eastern Fever Hospital; Miss Emily Jones, Matron, St. Mary's Infirmary, Islington; Miss Anderson, Matron, Children's Hospital, Paddington; and Sister Victoria, of St. Mary's Hospital. Amongst those members who have come forward to support the Association since the granting of the Royal Charter we observed Mrs. Dacre Craven, Hon. Nurse Secretary; Mrs. Coster, Matron of St. George's Hospital; Miss Medill, Matron of St. Mary's Hospital; Miss Smedley, Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, and others, well supported by members of their nursing staffs.

We were much struck with the improved appearance of the whole body of Nurses; the uniforms worn were, as a rule, neat, simple and becoming—fringes and "buns" no longer disfigured the methods in which the hair was dressed, and bulgy chatelaines jingling from the waist, were this year conspicuous by their absence. It would be invidious to single out the pupils of the various schools for special praise, but as a *tout ensemble*, our British Nurses presented an eminently fitting and dainty appearance, and we feel sure their appearance was a pleasure and gladness to the pioneers of Nursing reform who—having borne the heat and burden of the day during the period of transition from the old to the new in the nursing world

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