

### National Society for the Sick and Wounded.

S.S. *Mayflower*,  
Cairo, September 18th, 1898.

To : THE COMMISSIONER,  
National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War.

SIR,

I beg to submit the following report *re* the trip of the National Aid Society's steamer *Mayflower*, for the conveyance of sick and wounded from Assouan to Cairo. On the 6th September I took over medical charge of the ship, having under my command one medical-officer, one sergeant, one corporal, and six privates of the Royal Army Medical Corps. The Medical and Surgical equipment was supplied from the Military Hospital at Cairo, and proved adequate for the purpose. Three Civil Nurses were sent out from London by the Society, they gave great satisfaction and were zealous in the performance of their duties. The sick and wounded received military rations for the journey, which were supplemented with the Society's stores or substituted where necessary. The ship was accommodated for fifty-two men; double-berthed cabins on the upper deck to accommodate thirty. On the lower deck the arrangement of the cabins has been altered, the partitions between the cabins being taken away and the berths arranged in two tiers; twelve on the starboard and ten on the port-side. This proved of great convenience as it enabled stretchers to be taken inside the cabin and right up to the berth's side. All cases confined to bed, such as wounds of the leg and dysentery were treated, as far as accommodation permitted, on the lower deck. Assouan was reached mid-day of the 13th September. At 10 a.m. on the 15th a sick convoy consisting of six officers and forty-four men, arrived by train from Shellal, the embarkment took place at once, and within an hour the ship left for Cairo. Of the six officers four were wounded, three bullet, and one sword, and the other two were suffering from dysentery. Of the forty-four men, twenty-seven were wounded, and seventeen dysentery and fever. The wounds consisted of bullet, sword and spear, some of the men being wounded in two and three places. The great feature in the ship, in my opinion, is that wounds could be kept at physiological rest, this being conducive to treatment and comfort, not to be obtained in a railway journey. Then again, wounds could be, and were, dressed daily on strictly antiseptic principles, thereby minimising considerably deleterious after effects.

In conclusion, I beg to express the surprise and delight of both officers and men at the ship, and its comforts provided for them, and which I feel sure will be most gratifying to the Society. One

or two of the many remarks I heard may be of interest: one soldier when he saw the clean bed provided for him, recalled to mind what he had gone through, and could hardly believe it was intended for him, and although badly wounded, refused to go to bed until he had been washed, as he said he wouldn't like to dirty the sheets. Colonel Sloggett, R.A.M.C., who had been shot through the chest, said he had suffered very much from the jolting of the train on the way to Assouan and could not help comparing what he called the "absolute peace" of the ship. The Hon. Molyneux, Royal Horse Guards, severe sword wound of arm, greatly pulled down from loss of blood, derived great benefit said, after two days, that "he never felt better in his life," and was loud in praise. The ship arrived at Cairo on the afternoon of the 18th September, when the sick and wounded were conveyed by ambulances to the Hospital.

I beg to remain,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) W. A. COWEN, Major,  
Royal Army Medical Corps.

The following telegram was received from the Society's Commissioner, on October 4th:—  
"Society's Hospital Steamer, *Mayflower*, reached Cairo on Saturday evening the 1st instant, with the last of the wounded from the battle of Omdurman, namely, three officers; Brinton, Nesham and Nicholson, and forty-four men, also two officers; Graham and Archer, and two men sick, all benefited by the care bestowed upon them while on the steamer, which left on Sunday (2nd inst.) for Assouan to bring back the remainder of the sick from the front."

### Appointments.

#### LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

MISS GERTRUDE WASHBURN has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Invalids' Home, Davos Platz, Switzerland. She was trained at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, and gained further nursing experience at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich. Miss Washburn has also acted as night superintendent at the Kensington Infirmary, and recently as Assistant Matron at the Warneford Hospital, Leamington.

#### MATRON.

MRS. BLUNDEN has been elected Matron of the County and City of Cork Lying-in Hospital. She was trained at the North Infirmary, Cork, and at the Rotunda Maternity Hospital, Dublin, where she held the post of staff-nurse to the Gynecological Department.

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