

5.—The inducing public bodies to assist District Nursing Associations, and to represent the interest of District Nursing in the county.

6.—The enlisting influential interest and subscriptions from all parts of the county.

7.—The granting of uniforms, appliances, and money help to local associations, and keeping the more expensive appliances for loan.

8.—The overcoming local opposition by powerful outside influence.

Fifteen County Federations of Nursing Districts exist, viz.: in Cornwall, Cumberland, Hampshire, Lincolnshire, and Northumberland (these five are affiliated to the Queen's Jubilee Institute); also in Bedfordshire, Derbyshire, Dorsetshire, Essex, Nottinghamshire, Suffolk, Sussex (East) and Sussex (North), Yorkshire (North Riding), Ross-shire and Sutherlandshire. Most of these counties adopt the District system, but in Sussex and Yorkshire the nurse works on the Ockley system of taking only one case at a time and living and boarding in the house of the patient.

(To be continued).

The Red Cross Society in the Soudan.

THE following account of the work done by the *Mayflower* in the recent Soudan Campaign, has been given by Sir Francis Grenfell in a letter to Lord Wantage:—

"The *Mayflower* completed her last voyage to-day, and I met her at the wharf where the sick were disembarked. The men had improved in a very marked manner on the voyage down, and every care had been taken of them. The boat has been a great success, everything required having been found by Colonel Young on a very liberal scale. The nurses of the British Red Cross Society are reported as having done their duty most efficiently. Two have gone home in charge of the sick on the Jelunga, and we are retaining one at the Cairo Hospital, where our nurses are very hard worked.

"The system on which the work of the Red Cross Society has been performed has been most successful, and I would strongly advise its adoption in any future campaign. The society found the steamer, the nurses, and all comforts; while the Royal Army Medical Corps remained responsible for the care and treatment of the men—the nurses working under the senior medical officer—eight hospital orderlies and the medical equipment being provided by the P.M.O. Cairo. The *Mayflower* was fitted to accommodate 52 patients; she made three trips, beginning on September 14, and arriving on her last trip at Cairo to-day. The results obtained have been gratifying. There has been no hitch and no friction. The advantage to bad cases has been great, the dreadful discomfort to the wounded of a dusty railway journey being avoided."

Military Nursing at Home and Abroad.

A QUESTION FOR THE QUEEN.

WE are glad to note that "One Who Knows" has contributed the following letter to the *Globe*. As the first paper which protested against the exclusion of trained nurses in the late Soudan Campaign, we are pleased to find the daily press following our lead. But surely it is the duty of a daily press to have taken the initiative in a question which concerns the life or death of our brave soldiers.

HOSPITAL NURSES AT ALEXANDRIA.

"SIR,—With reference to the remarks of your military correspondent in the *Globe* of the 15th inst., not only is the staff of nursing sisters at Alexandria utterly inadequate during the present stress of work, but no sisters, from a staff of 72 members, were sent out with the Soudan Expedition. As your correspondent observes, enteric fever is a disease which requires skilled nursing, and as this cannot be supplied by the Royal Army Medical Corps, under the present system of training, the withholding of the services of the Army Nursing Sisters from the soldiers in time of war, and in a country where enteric fever is rife, is incomprehensible. This is the first war in which the nursing sisters have been denied their undoubted rights, and it certainly cannot have been from failure of duty in previous campaigns, as the reports of the value of nursing sisters contained in the Blue Book (Report of Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for War to inquire into the organisation of the Army Hospital Corps, hospital management, and nursing in the field), published in 1883, prove the contrary. As to the argument that the hardships would have been too great for nurses, no nurse worthy the name shrinks from hardships, and the nursing sisters were not only willing, but anxious to go. Certainly, the results of the campaign, as at present reported, do not justify the withholding of the services of the Army Nursing Sisters.

Yours faithfully,

October 17th.

ONE WHO KNOWS."

We hear on the best authority that the "Royal Army Medical Corps" determined to undertake the entire *nursing* of our sick troops, as well as their treatment in the Soudan Campaign, and the Sisters failed to reap such honours and awards, as would naturally have fallen to the Army Nursing Service, if they had been sent on active duty.

We strongly protest against this assumption of responsibility for which they are not trained upon the part of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and we hope before Her Majesty invests these gentlemen with the Royal Red Cross, that a full and authenticated list of the deaths of our poor soldiers from suppurating wounds, enteric fever, dysentery, and divers other diseases will be demanded by the press and made public. The "nobbling" of the duties of the Army Nursing Service by the Medical Corps has been most unjust, and unjustifiable, and we do not intend to let it rest until public opinion has been so aroused that in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)