

## Off to Africa.

It is difficult to obtain definite information with regard to the nursing arrangements in South Africa, but we learn that Sister Garrick (Superintendent of Nurses at Woolwich), Sister Anderson and Sister Snowdon of the Army Nursing Service, have received instructions to proceed to the Cape. We are also informed that it is probable that the Army Sisters will, as nurses are requisitioned, be sent out of Africa, and that the nurses of the Army Nursing Reserve will supply their places at home—an equitable arrangement, as it is only fair that the regulars should take precedence of the volunteers.

An important letter has been addressed to the *Times*, by Lord Wantage, Chairman of the Central British Red Cross Committee, of which H.R.H. the Princess of Wales is Honorary President, stating the arrangements proposed by this Committee, composed of representatives of the English Red Cross Society, the St. John's Ambulance Society, and the Army Nursing Service Reserve, if war is declared. Lord Rothschild, as a member of the Committee, has raised £10,000 amongst his city friends, and it has been decided to charter a ship to be fitted up as a hospital, and carry a staff of doctors and nurses, supplied by the Army Nursing Reserve, which will make journeys between the Cape and this country, bringing the wounded home. It is also proposed by the Committee to equip a railway train, the ambulance fittings being furnished through the St. John's Ambulance Branch of the Committee. Associated and in touch with this Central Red Cross Committee sub-committees will be formed at the chief military centres—probably 13 in number—throughout the kingdom, where subscription lists will be opened and information will be supplied with regard to any "matériel" that may be needed. We have no doubt that the British public will welcome the opportunity thus afforded them.

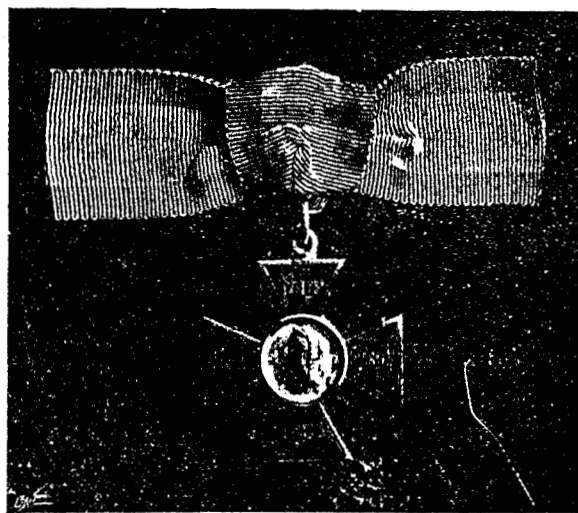
## The Royal Red Cross.

A PICTURE of the Royal Red Cross, a distinction highly prized by its possessors, will, we are sure, be of great interest to our readers. We are, therefore, glad that, by the kind permission of the Editor of that charmingly illustrated paper the *Ladies' Field*, we are able to present it to them, as well as the portraits of some of the Sisters upon whom it has been bestowed.

The decoration was instituted by her Majesty the Queen, on St. George's Day, 1883, as a recognition of "zeal and devotion in providing for and nursing sick and wounded sailors, soldiers, and others with the army in the field, on board ship, or in hospitals."

It is usually conferred by the Queen in person, a kindly act which is much appreciated by the recipients of this honour.

The Royal Red Cross is, we believe, at present, the only decoration bestowed by her Majesty in recognition of women's work, and it has been a source of pleasure to us and to many others to see, in recent times, the names of nurses in the New Year's and Birthday Honours lists as the recipients of the Royal Red Cross. We hope that eventually a decoration will be instituted for



THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

women who have distinguished themselves in other branches of work. Women are now entering largely into public life, and performing services of public utility, and they, in common with men, appreciate the recognition of work well done.

Foreign as well as British subjects are eligible for the Royal Red Cross, but so far those, other than British subjects, upon whom it has been conferred, are royal ladies. It will be remembered that after the Græco-Turkish war Her Majesty bestowed the decoration upon Her Majesty the Queen of Greece, and Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess, Duchess of Sparta. This award gave great satisfaction, for both the Queen of Greece and the Crown Princess were unceasing in their efforts for the welfare of the sick and wounded.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)