

Army Nursing News.

THE CENTRAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE.

THIS Committee, composed of members of the National Aid Society (British Red Cross), St. John's Ambulance Society, and the Army Nursing Reserve, is actively working for the organization of the care of the sick and wounded, and held an important meeting on Tuesday last at the offices of the Army Medical Department, 18, Victoria Street, to receive from its secretary, Major Macpherson, the report of his enquiries as to hospital ships which it is proposed to send out as auxiliaries to those already under orders at the War Office. The Committee hope to secure ships that will accommodate at least 100 men, which will ply between Durban and the Cape. They are to be fitted out with every luxury and comfort for our wounded soldiers, and the nursing arrangements will be directed by nurses drawn from the Army Nursing Reserve, the organization of which was first formally proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in a report placed by her before the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, in 1894, but which was ultimately organized by members of that Association in conjunction with the War Office.

In the course of a few days the Central Committee hope to issue an attractive little manual, boldly stamped with the Geneva Red Cross, setting forth its methods of help to the sick and wounded in war, and indicating the means by which kind-hearted sympathisers can most usefully bestow their aid.

A NURSING VETERAN.

Mrs. Deeble, whose name is well known in the Nursing world, as the former Lady Superintendent of the Army Nursing Service, and was the Superintendent of the Army Nursing Service in the Zulu War has, through the National Aid Society, offered herself to the Central Red Cross Committee for service in South Africa. Although seventy years of age, Mrs. Deeble feels quite as equal for the onerous work her offer entails, as she did at the time of the Zulu War. The Committee, however, while warmly appreciating the offer, feel that it would be unfair to lay such heavy labours on her again.

DEPARTURE OF THE "BRAEMAR CASTLE."

On Friday in last week a special train left Waterloo at 8.20 conveying the London contingent of the Army Service Corps for embarkation in the "Braemar Castle" at Southampton, and by it travelled Sisters of the Army Nursing Service who have been ordered to South Africa. The names

of the Sisters are Miss A. Garriock, the recently-appointed Superintendent at the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich; Miss A. C. L. Anderson, from the Military Hospital, Rochester Row; Miss S. Y. Snowdon, from Devonport; Miss A. Guthrie, from Chatham; Miss A. R. Rose-Innes, from Aldershot; Miss A. A. Murphy, from Dublin; Miss H. L. Neale, from Canterbury; and Miss A. Nixon, from Woolwich. The "Braemar Castle" takes out over 100 officers, 90 warrant officers, and 1,300 non-commissioned officers and men. At Southampton the ship had a good send off, as a great crowd had assembled to witness the embarkation. It was a tense moment when the military police gave the order, "All on board," and husbands and wives embraced, perhaps, for the last time. Then the moorings splashed into the water, there was a softer splash of tears on shore, and the big ship began to move. With a cheer from those on board, heartily responded to by those left behind, she steamed out to sea, the outward and visible token that even now we have so little advanced towards civilization that two professedly Christian nations can deliberately propose to settle their differences by fire and sword.

THE HOSPITAL SHIPS.

THE steam-ships *Spartan* and *Trojan*, belonging to the Union Line, have been converted into floating hospitals, which, it is arranged, shall ply between Natal and Cape Town, conveying the wounded to the base hospital at the latter place. The hulls of both vessels have been painted white, their names obliterated, and the Geneva Cross is prominently displayed, as it is painted on the side of the vessel, besides flying at the mast head.

The interior transformation is as complete as that of the exterior. Nearly all the cabins, saloons, and interior of the main deck have been removed, and four hospital wards have been formed which will accommodate 65 patients. In addition, in the place of the first-class saloon there is an officers' ward containing five swinging cots, and on the same level are more wards for some 86 men. The wards have been painted a pale green colour, and the floors stained and varnished. Between the white cots canvas runners have been laid, so that the movements of the staff will be practically noiseless. A well-equipped operation-room, a surgery and dispensary have been arranged, and each ship will, for the first time in the history of hospital ships, carry an X-ray apparatus, and there is also a properly fitted padded room. Refrigerators for the manufacture of ice have been arranged which can turn out half a ton a day. Specially constructed stretcher-lifts are provided to some of the wards, and where access is by means of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)