

number of Army Nursing Sisters have been ordered to South Africa, that more will be sent should occasion arise, and that two hospital ships have already been equipped in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, by which the wounded will be conveyed from Natal to the hospitals at the Cape. Another ship to bring the wounded home, and hospital trains carrying medical men and nurses, are also provided. This is a much more adequate arrangement than any made in previous wars, and it is a satisfaction to us to know that the NURSING RECORD has had some share in bringing about these improved conditions.

We have been at some pains during the past year to bring to the notice of the authorities the serious deficiencies in the nursing arrangements of the Soudan campaign. We ventured to predict that in any future war the same mistakes would not be repeated, and it seems our prediction was right. There can be no doubt that considerable dissatisfaction was felt by many at the dearth of trained and efficient nursing in last year's war. The nation has always been keenly alive to the right of those who are wounded in the service of their country to skilled nursing care. It has no wish to expose its defenders to the unnecessary hardship and danger entailed, when lying sick, and tended only by unskilled hands, in a foreign country; and any neglect of the Government in this respect is sure to bring down upon it disapproval, and consequent unpopularity. We have no doubt therefore that the lesson of the past is taken to heart, and that the Nursing Sisters of our Army will on this occasion, as well as in the future, be allowed to perform their duty. This surely includes following the British flag, not in fair weather only, but wherever the need for their services is greatest. The time, if ever it existed, has gone by for British women, belonging to a public service, to be kept at home when the sick, whom they are pledged to serve, need their care. We congratulate the Army Sisters that they have been accorded the place which is their undoubted right, and we do not doubt that they will uphold the honour of their cloth, and demonstrate to the world that to place the sick and wounded in war in the care of women who have given years of their lives to qualifying themselves for their profession, is incumbent upon all nations which desire to be considered humane and civilized.

Annotations.

THE WOMAN PAYS.

THE sympathy of many women has flown out during the past week to the wives and children of our brave soldiers left at home full of piteous anxiety, for the husband sent to face death in South Africa, and about ways and means at home. The special appeal issued by the Princess of Wales on behalf of the families of the married men ordered on foreign service, through that most excellent society, the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association, of which she is President, will, we have no doubt, meet with a generous response. The appeal, which is signed by Colonel Gildea, chairman of the Executive Committee, states that on no previous occasion of the despatch of a large expeditionary force from this country has there been a complete organisation, consisting of over 3,000 ladies and gentlemen throughout the kingdom, voluntarily undertaking to befriend the wives and families of our soldiers and sailors during their absence on active service. Additional funds are all that is now required to meet the extra demands which must of necessity fall on the association at the present time. It is needless to add that while those "on the strength" are equally helped by the association with those "not on the strength," the needs and wants of the latter are far in excess of those of the former. The wives and families of the Reserves, while serving with the colors, are helped equally with those of the standing forces. Her Royal Highness (the President) and the council, with confidence, therefore appeal to the public, as well as to all interested in the Services at home and abroad, to help in this great national work. Subscriptions will be thankfully received by all local office bearers of the association, or by Colonel Gildea, the treasurer, at the offices of the Society, 23, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster.

THE TRANSVAAL REFUGEES.

IT is significant of sympathy felt in this country for the Transvaal refugees, that in so short a time the Lord Mayor's Fund for their relief has reached nearly £100,000. Amongst the donors are Her Majesty the Queen, who has subscribed 500 guineas, the Prince of Wales, who has sent 200 guineas, and the Princess of Wales, who has given the same amount. The straits of those who have, owing to the declaration of war, been compelled to leave the South African Republic and the

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