

### Army Nursing News.

As we go to press many brave men may be sick and wounded in South Africa, although very little reliable information has come through, but we know that this terrible conflict is to be war to the death with the Boers, and, as they are of the same stock as the brave defenders of Leyden, who can doubt that they will fight to the bitter end? No one who has read history. But in modern warfare it is wealth, not courage, which must ultimately gain the day, and this is the chief reason in favour of arbitration. Justice can only now be maintained by reason. There is now no longer any glory in warfare, when science and wealth combined must spell victory, irrespective of the rights of the case. Militarism, under these circumstances, develops tyranny, and the smaller nations of the earth barter their independence before its power, or die in resisting the force of gold.

But the duty of women is plain. They may disapprove of the policy which causes blood to be shed, but those who suffer are the innocent instruments of this policy, and their sacrifice arouses our deepest sympathies and desire to help them in their suffering. In this war we must no longer sit idle whilst those responsible for the care of our wounded soldiers fail through ignorance to provide of the best for their recovery, and we notice with pleasure that quite a new spirit animates the War Office in relation to the nursing of the sick than that for which it has been justly blamed in times past.

Besides the eight Sisters who sailed on the *Braemar Castle*, for duty in General Hospital No. 1, Sisters L. Hardement, Tripp, Makepeace, Saunders, Tait, Steel, and Drury, have left on the S.S. *Spartan* and *Trojan*; and we learn that their places have, in several instances, been temporarily filled by members of the Army Nursing Reserve. Another batch of Army Sisters is to sail on the 29th inst., to take duty in No. 2 General Hospital. The general details of organization for the care of the wounded will be in the hands of the Commander of the Forces in South Africa, and will, no doubt, depend much on circumstances.

All the week hundreds of men have been busy in Southampton docks transforming the *Trojan* into a palace for pain, and she is ready to put to sea as we go to press. Some thirteen nursing Sisters have already been sent on active service, and more have received orders to hold themselves in readiness, amongst them Superintendent Sister Sidney Browne, of the Connaught Hospital,

Aldershot, who saw active service on the *Ganges* before Suakin in 1892, and who was on duty for months without a day's sick leave, and has proved herself of the right stuff for roughing it.

We hear of many women—not trained nurses—eagerly desirous to give a helping hand to the authorities in their time of need, and Lady Hely Hutchinson is to sail on the *Trojan*, and is to take a leading part in supporting the efforts in South Africa of the British Central Red Cross Committee. The help of the untrained, however, can be best given at home, in doing well, work in which many excel, providing articles of comfortable clothing and other luxuries for the sick.

The *Daily Telegraph* says:—

"This week has seen the practical completion of the system of organization by the British Red Cross Committee, by which all the voluntary gifts in money and in kind will be devoted to the alleviation of suffering among our soldiers in South Africa. While the National Aid Society and the Army Nursing Reserve are providing for hospital ships and skilled care, the no less important sections of supplies and easy methods of transit for men in sore suffering have been duly considered, and this branch will be directed by the St. John Ambulance Society. Viscount Knutsford and Sir John Furley are the two representatives on the committee of this famous old order, whose mission of healing was so long permitted to practically lapse, until, with the Prince of Wales as its Grand Prior, it took a new lease of life, adapting itself to the altered conditions of modern times. Sir John Furley, during the past week or so, has been particularly busy over the details of the equipment of hospital trains, the fittings for which will be sent out and fixed in carriages in the shops of the various lines in Natal. Men chiefly drawn from the Reserves of the Army Medical Corps will take charge of the wounded placed in these trains until they are received at a base hospital or ship.

"Stretchers, too, will be provided by this society, the pattern selected and approved by the Army Medical Department being one designed by Sir John Furley himself, and following in size the regulation pattern. It is very strong, rigid, and light, folds into very small space, and what is an important point, can be reduced in width in order to pass through a railway carriage door, without the slightest jar to the patient. It is, perhaps, hardly grasped how essential a detail for the field is this one of occupying narrow limits. It is proved by the bandages, which are all submitted to enormous hydraulic pressure

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