

before packing. One of these, as shown at the society's offices at St. John's gate, of seven yards in length, can be compressed into a roll measuring less than one and three-eighths of an inch across, and literally as hard as a piece of board, whereas a bandage of that length as ordinarily seen in a surgical ward is over two inches in diameter. Similarly the medicated cotton-wool and the lint for dressings will be reduced in bulk, and a considerable quantity of these items will be provided by this society. In the Franco-German War night-gowns, bed-jackets, and ward-wraps were especially valuable, and this organization is considering the issue of patterns to scale of the garments that would be of the best service. Women will be able to render valuable help by holding working parties to make such things, and with the issue in a few days of the "Red Cross Manual," which the Central Committee is preparing, fuller hints in this direction will be available.

"Meantime, the secretary (Mr. Edwardes) of the St. John Ambulance Society has been empowered to rent a large warehouse in which to receive and store all the gifts sent for the benefit of the soldiers. Generosity at such times is often in bulky form, and already handsome contributions of meat extracts and beef tea by well-known makers, carbolic and other medicated soaps, which are much appreciated by the nurses, wines, brandy, potted delicacies to tempt flagging appetites, and very much more have been promised. Altogether, it would seem that the project formulated by the Secretary of State for War of bringing the several and separate associations working for the benefit of the soldier in the field into concerted action, making each one responsible for its own department in harmony with the rest, is likely to prove of the utmost value, and that the official provision of medical care and field hospitals will never have been so magnificently supplemented by private bounty and voluntary service as upon the present occasion."

A corps of nurses from the southern portion of New South Wales is being organized for service at the Cape, their expenses being furnished by large private subscriptions, both local and general.

There will be plenty for nurses to do in Kimberley, but with Sister Henrietta directing the private nursing staff, to which Miss Watkins, Miss Lawrence, Miss Oxley, and numbers of earnest nurses are attached, and with Miss Isabella Gordon as Matron, and Miss Child as Sister, of the Hospital, the very best nursing material is at hand. It is sincerely to be hoped that Mr. Cecil Rhodes,

who is shut up in the town, may not need their services, but if for once ill luck should lay him low, we have no doubt that the tender care of the nursing sisterhood would once and for all dispel his misogynist tendencies.

Mr. Arthur H. Wheeler, Secretary of the Soldiers' Christian Association, has been busy distributing the literature forwarded amongst the troops on board the transports for South Africa. Arrangements have been made for its distribution at the ports of London, Liverpool, and Southampton. Great numbers of cheery books and papers and illustrated magazines can thus be made use of, and are a source of much pleasure to the men.

Every scrap of war news sent to the daily press has, doubtless, been eagerly read by nurses, and they will have learnt that in isolated Mafeking the devoted Superior and Sisters of the Roman Catholic Convent all elected to stay and nurse the wounded, when granted permission by the Bishop to leave the town, and that many other brave women remained to be of use in the time of need, Dr. Hayes organizing an ambulance service. A number of houses in all the little towns near the Western border have been converted into hospitals, and, we may be sure, are well staffed with devoted workers.

After the capture by the Boers of the armoured train at Maribogo, an engine with a hospital carriage carrying a white flag has started for Maribogo with a doctor, a station master, and a few railway men with the object of visiting the Boer camp, and asking for permission to attend to and remove our wounded to Kimberley. The train returned after an adventurous journey; it had reached the curve culvert, 700 yards south of Maribogo Station, in safety, and was in sight of the store, having just slackened speed, when it was observed that the rails were torn up, and the brakes were immediately applied. The engine passed over a portion of the rail which had been partly raised, but the occupants immediately righted the engine. At the same time, it was observed that the Boers were galloping into line east of the railway, but well on this side of the border. Some of those on board the train declared that they saw cannon pointed at it. The intentions of the Boers were apparently hostile, and the train accordingly ran back to Vryburg at full speed, the engine flying the white flag and the red cross. The rails had been removed with picks and crowbars, which were lying about, the Boers having apparently been disturbed while engaged on the work.

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