

narrow limits of the Central British Red Cross Committee, as at present constituted, savour too much of War Office bureaucracy to appeal to the general public, and to be told constantly that this is the only channel by which the public are *permitted* to aid the sick and wounded, has a distinctly discouraging effect upon the British public, which is a self-governing animal. The people will give and give generously, but they must also have a say as to how their golden guineas should be expended, and be asked for personal service as well as cash.

As the war proceeds, sick and wounded soldiers will have to be conveyed over rough roads and railways from the front to the Cape and to Natal; and we learn that the Red Cross Committee is fitting up two hospital trains on the lines of communication, and appliances have already been sent out for the purpose of converting ordinary railway carriages into suitable ambulance carriages so constructed as to receive and remove patients without interfering with their recumbent position, a point on which great stress is laid by Army medical officers. The society has chartered and is sending out a hospital ship fully equipped with every comfort and appliance, and with an efficient staff of surgeons and nurses.

This week the society is sending out to South Africa their commissioner, who will carry on the work at the seat of war, and who will be in touch with the branch committee, which is being started at Cape Town under the auspices of Sir Alfred Milner. Persons desirous of making hospital clothing, dressing-gowns, or other articles, should apply to the Secretary of the St. John Ambulance Association, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C., for patterns and quantities required; but the Committee advise the public not to devote themselves so much to the preparation of articles of this nature as to the collection of funds.

Sir John Soundy, Mayor of Windsor, presided, on Saturday afternoon, at a public meeting, held in the Guildhall of the Royal Borough, on behalf of the fund. A letter was read from the Hon. W. Waldorf Astor, enclosing a cheque for £5,000.

The total subscriptions announced amounted to £5,776, in addition to the amount sent by Mr. Astor. Sir F. D. Barry, M.P., and Baron Schroeder each gave 100 guineas, and Lord Justice Field 50 guineas.

SIR WILLIAM MACCORMAC, President of the College of Surgeons, has offered his services in aid of the wounded, and the Government have gratefully accepted his offer. Sir William will

proceed to the front, accompanied by two civilian medical officers.

Many Army Nursing Sisters have received orders to hold themselves in readiness for active service in South Africa. From the Connaught Hospital, Aldershot, Sisters Harding, Mark and H. Tarleton Young are to go out with Superintendent Sister Browne, who is to be in charge of No. 3 Stationary Hospital in Natal, with a working staff of twelve Sisters. We could wish all these skilled workers were already on the road, from all accounts they are sorely needed *now*. Sister T. A. G. Kinahan, from the Guards' Hospital, Rochester Row, has also been selected for active service, and leaves to-day (Saturday).

The services of many of the Army Nursing Reserve have been requisitioned, the majority of the nurses will supply the places of experienced Army Sisters during their absence at the front, but others are to be sent on service on the Red Cross hospital ship. We hope that, amongst other qualifications, that their "sailing" powers will be considered, as we have heard of Nursing Sisters who have been disabled from duty by their susceptibility to *mal de mer*. This is an important point.

American women in London are expressing the sympathy felt for England in the States, by organizing help for our wounded. Lady Randolph Churchill and Mrs. Arthur Paget are getting together subscriptions for a hospital ship, which is to be fitted out completely, and they are asking some of the leading women who are Americans by birth to be on the Committee.

Those who recollect the magnificent work of the Anglo-American Ambulance which emanated from Paris during the Franco-Prussian War, will know that something worth having will be the result of the present movement.

From the seat of war, news comes that the wounded are doing well, but also it is told how a deluge of rain fell immediately after our first great battle at Dundee, making a piteous scene on the field where the wounded were lying, and how the wounded had to be collected up after dark, over a wide area. The hospital of the Boers was brought into the British camp, as they had only one doctor with them, and their arrangements for the care of the wounded were primitive in the extreme.

From Mafeking we hear of doughty deeds of valour. This shows the spirit of our men.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)