

Army Nursing Notes.

AH! those red corpuscles! Comparison may be odious, but those who witnessed the "set off" to Sir William MacCormac and Mr. Makins from Waterloo for the seat of war on Saturday, and that given to the Nursing Sisters an hour or two later, will certainly ponder on the debated question of women's paucity of red blood.

Hundreds of St. Thomas' students crowded the platform and greeted Sir William and Mr. Makins with boisterous acclaim, roaring heartily and in good tune, "For he's a jolly good fellow," and "Auld Lang Syne." Mr. Makins was carried shoulder high, and deposited in his car, and the boisterous medicos sent the train off amidst a scene of wild enthusiasm, all the leading lights of the Army Medical Department being present to wish their colleagues "God-speed."

On the same platform, a few hours later, a quiet little band of grey-cloaked Sisters stood waiting for the Castle Line express. A few personal women friends chatted with them, here and there. Here was Superintendent Sidney Browne, deputed to take charge of No. 3 General Hospital, and her devoted staff, just slipping away to take ship for the Cape, without any fuss, or even recognition.

No—not quite that—dear bonny Sister Browne—so buoyant and bright—has also her colleagues who rejoice in her powerful individuality and delightful "straight" methods. So presently came several members of the Matrons' Council, amongst them Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Knight, and Miss Breay, laden with a lovely basket of flowers; red geraniums for war, white lilies and hyacinths for peace, and tied up gorgeously with bunches of the national ribbon, red, white and blue. Warm, silent hugs and kisses, and the Sisters take their seats. Sister Browne waves her flowers in farewell. "Come and meet us when we come home," she says, and all the bright and happy faces, so kind and confident, are gone. May they all return again as bright and lovely.

The Princess of Wales has placed at the disposal of the Central British Red Cross Committee the balance of a sum of money collected by her Royal Highness's branch of the National Aid Society at the time of the Egyptian Campaign of 1885. This will be devoted to the fitting out of a hospital ship, and the *Midnight Sun* has been chartered for the purpose. The vessel will be

re-named *The Princess of Wales*, and will leave Southampton during the latter end of the month. The Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, is on the Committee, so that no doubt some of the London nurses may be chosen for active duty.

Sisters Rahere and Sitwell, of Surgical Wards at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, have volunteered and been accepted by the War Office for work in South Africa. Their colleagues are busy providing gifts of a most useful character for their use. Boxes are to be fitted with every up-to-date nursing article which may be needed in their work, and the Matron is giving her expert help in arranging this most useful present. The idea is a bright one, and worthy of "Barts."

Mr. Frederick Treves, who leaves for the seat of war to-day (Saturday), is taking with him his nursing assistant and the Superintendent of a Nursing Home which he patronises, so that, of course, there is some heart-burning amongst those early members of the Army Nursing Reserve who are being thus superseded by those with personal influence. As the nurses have not been permitted to take any part in organizing the Nursing Reserve, we fear they will realise more and more that justice can only be obtained by self-government.

A small medical corps, consisting of two surgeons, two trained nurses, and a number of medical students from Aberdeen University, has been organised under the direction of Sir James Sivewright to proceed to Pretoria for hospital work among the wounded, both British and Boer alike. The corps will sail in the *Moravian* on November 13th for Delagoa Bay.

The American Hospital Ship *Maine* is being hammered into shape in Tilbury Docks. She has room for 200 patients, and sails for the Cape on the 25th inst. It is gratifying to know that, with the exception of the chief medical officer, the whole staff will be Americans, doctors, nurses and orderlies. Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, of American Army Nursing fame, is to dispatch the nurses with experience in the Cuban War from New York on the 11th, so we may expect them in London in the following week, they will be brought over by the Atlantic Transport Company free of charge, and on arrival will be transferred to the *Maine* and go in her to the Cape.

Lady Randolph Churchill has decided to go out to South Africa on behalf of the American

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)