

our wounded from Durban to Cape Town, and many of the wounded are already being cared for there, invalid soldiers are to be brought home to Netley at the earliest possible date.

From all sources comes the confirmation of the statement that the Boers have treated wounded prisoners with the greatest goodwill and kindness.

A second Red Cross ambulance will leave Amsterdam on the 25th inst. for Lorencó Marquez, with two physicians, four male and six female nurses. It is to be feared they will find some terrible suffering in the Boer camps.

In bygone days when battle meant a hand to hand fight with cold steel, personal bravery and skill were the chief elements essential; but now that science has elected that our battles shall be fought with explosives thrown from a distance, which burst amongst the enemy, and mow them down in heaps, the victory falls to those who can compound the deadliest explosives, and is largely achieved by the chemists who sit in the laboratories at home. When this is the case, we think that the days when national differences are settled by war must be numbered.

General Joubert has protested to General White against the use of lyddite, which he characterises as inhuman, and we are not surprised. Lyddite is an enormously powerful explosive which breaks up shells into very small fragments, destroying everything near. It is a preparation of potassium-picrate, picric acid being the essential constituent. Picric acid, which is familiar to nurses, is a poisonous and intensely yellow coal tar product. The havoc it works when prepared as lyddite is appalling.

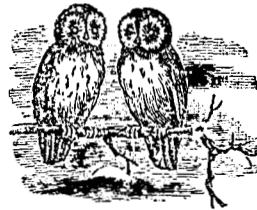
Our troops are holding their own, and some victories have been gained, but the decisive battle of the war has yet to be fought, and many hearts will bleed, and many homes be saddened, before our arms are proclaimed victorious. Much sympathy is felt by all for our brave soldiers, but while uniting in this, it is the wives and mothers who are left behind who need it most. The "absent-minded beggar" has got the chance he longs for. He is in the midst of stirring action and new scenes. At home the women have to go about their daily work in the old surroundings hourly reminded by some trifling incident of the absence of the loved one, and with an ever present dread that the next post may bring a letter to tell that the darling of the house will return no more.

The Matrons' Council.

ANNUAL REPORT.

PRESENTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE COUNCIL.

Summary for the year October 1898—October 1899.



THERE are at present 9 Hon. Members of the Society, and 103 Members. During the past year 40 applications for membership have been received and passed by the Council, as compared with 9 last year.

Two Hon. Members have been appointed during the past year, Miss Hanna Kindbom, Matron of the John Sealy Hospital, Galveston, U.S.A., and Professor of Nursing in the University of Texas, and Miss S. B. McGahey, Matron of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, New South Wales, and Hon. Secretary of the Trained Nurses' Association in that country.

The Committee have to record with much regret, the deaths of Miss Violet Clarke, Matron of the Chichester Infirmary, and one of the earliest members of the Society, Miss Alice Dannatt, formerly Matron of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and Miss Louise Darche, an Hon. Member, who was, until within a short time of her death, Matron of the New York Training School for Nurses, Blackwall's Island, in which capacity she did most valuable pioneer work. As her death took place in England, the Council was able to send a wreath as a mark of its regard.

Miss Cureton's term of office as Vice-Chairman having expired last October, she was unanimously elected a Councillor. Miss M. Huxley, Lady Superintendent of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin, and Miss M. Mollett, Lady Superintendent of the Royal South Hants Infirmary, accepted office as Vice-Chairmen.

The amount received in Annual Subscriptions for the past year is nearly double that received in the preceding one.

The following special donations to meet the extraordinary expenditure of the past year have also been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Miss Isla Stewart	5	0	0
Miss M. Huxley	5	0	0
Miss Farquharson	1	1	0
Miss McGahey... ..	1	1	0
Miss Tamar Bean	1	1	0
Carried Forward	13	3	0

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)