

Africa these two expert surgical nurses, to whom he and his patients owe so much, as their skilled work has saved him hours of labour, and anxiety of mind, in relation to major operations. The nursing profession is indirectly complimented by Mr. Treves' acknowledgement of the great practical value in surgery of the skilled and experienced nurse.

The letter addressed by Miss Georgina Godolphin Osborne to the *Daily Chronicle*, protesting against the levity and frivolity evidenced in some of our daily and evening papers at this solemn time of bereavement throughout our whole land, will meet with warm approval on the part of the nursing profession, of which Miss Osborne was so bright an example in her capacity as Staff Nurse and Night Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Nurses may be proud that this eloquent appeal to the higher instincts of humanity comes from one of their profession.

The American women are, of course, showing their national *esprit* in their work for our wounded soldiers. At a recent meeting of the General Committee, Lady Randolph Churchill said:—"We, the Executive Committee, have the greatest pleasure in welcoming you, the members of the General Committee. We have to thank you for your co-operation and for the generous manner in which you have responded to our call. Indeed, it could not fail to be gratifying to us all to see how splendidly our compatriots have come forward. A little more than a fortnight ago the scheme was not in existence. To-day we have a ship, we have a magnificent staff, and, what is even more important, we have £15,000—hundreds of donations, and our fellow-countrymen are working for us in all parts of the world. We may differ as to the policy which necessitates the sending of so many gallant soldiers to the front. It is always easy to criticise, but as a gifted compatriot wrote to me, 'The wounded are the wounded irrespective of creed or nationality.' And, indeed, we can have but one mind on this matter; if we can alleviate sufferings and at the same time comfort the many aching and anxious hearts at home, shall we not be fulfilling our greatest mission in life? These are 'Women's Rights' in the best sense of the word. We need no others. We have heard of the friendship between England and America. Deeds are better than words, and we greatly hope that the hospital ship *Maine* may do more to cement that friendship than years of flag waving and pleasant amenities. And it is owing to your efforts that this great result will be achieved."

We feel sure, in alluding to "woman's rights," Lady Randolph Churchill, as a born American, estimates at its true value the inestimable privilege she and her compatriots enjoy in having the *right* and power to thus give their personal services to a great national cause, and that she will sympathise with those British women who are excluded, by the affiliation of what should be our National Red Cross Society with the Government Department of the War Office, from personally participating in any way in the aid of our sick and wounded soldiers. Women must win *rights* before they are able to enjoy *privileges*.

Meanwhile the *Maine* is to be the most complete and comfortable hospital ship that has ever been constructed. She will be equipped on two decks for 200 patients, and divided into four wards. The quarters for the lady nurses are in the after portion of the ship, around the main saloon, the officers of the ship are forward of the engines, whilst the medical officers are on the promenade deck forward. The apartments of Lady Randolph Churchill, the Chairman of the Fund, are located on the promenade deck, nearly amidships. The date of sailing is necessarily indefinite, in consequence of the large amount of work required in her outfitting.

From the "Society Tips" in the daily papers we learn that the notorious Lady Sykes, Lady Sarah Wilson, Mrs. Richard Chamberlain, and daughter, are qualifying to nurse the wounded. Lady Sykes "intends to take lessons in nursing" upon her arrival at the Cape, and then proceed to the front. This style of advertisement is exceedingly absurd, and we are pleased to observe that Lady Randolph Churchill has disclaimed any intention of "nursing the wounded" in her capacity as administrator on the *Maine*, remarking, with American cuteness, "that she has more respect for the patients."

Mr. Elihu Root, Secretary for War of the United States, has unofficially granted leave of absence to Major Cabell to accept the position of surgeon on board the *Maine*. There are to be five surgeons under the command of Col. Hensman, a chief nurse, and four women nurses, and about thirty skilled male orderlies, all of whom have been selected for their efficiency in the Spanish-American War. We learn that the salaries are to be on a scale worthy of the efficient workers selected. War Office please note.

Of course our remarks, in relation to the immense discrepancy in the price of Army surgeons

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)