

This was inevitable under existing circumstances, but it is nevertheless distinctly to the disadvantage of our wounded soldiers that women should be sent to the front holding inferior qualifications in the nursing profession, when hundreds of Sisters of Wards and thoroughly trained nurses holding the three years' certificate of their school are available. The pick of the nursing world, indeed, have offered their services to the War Office, but owing to the precedence given to the Army Nursing Reserve, the applications of these very efficient nurses have not been considered.

The Committee of the Civil Ambulance wish to select their own nursing sisters, but it is feared that the War Office will insist upon members of the Reserve being employed, as they have done in the case of the *Princess of Wales*, although it is an open secret that Her Royal Highness desired to avail herself of the services of two Sisters unconnected with that Society.

The truth is that, in its inception, the very greatest care should have been taken to organize the Army Nursing Reserve on efficient lines. This has not been done, and instead of being able to call up women thoroughly trained for active service, the choice has been largely made, from institutions in which the Committee is interested, of private nurses who have not received any training in military hospitals, or in the control of male orderlies. In fact, no curriculum or system of nursing has been defined by the Committee of the Reserve, and under existing arrangements it is impossible that a really efficient corps of Army Nurses can be maintained. The members of the Reserve have not given any proof by examination, nor have they had any practical experience to fit them for the position of Army Nursing Sisters.

Part of the nursing staff of the *Maine* have now arrived in London, and it is good news that we shall have the pleasure of meeting Miss Hibbard and her staff, as the *Maine* is not expected to sail for the Cape before the 10th December, and they are to be present at the "At Home" to be given by the American Women in London at the Hotel Cecil on the evening of the 4th December, which, we hear, is to be a very smart and delightful gathering. Mrs. Hugh Reid Griffin, the President, is working enthusiastically to make it a great success.

The musical programme will include songs illustrated by Tableaux Vivants arranged by members of the Society under the direction of Mr. Ben Greet.

It is sincerely hoped that there will be a large and enthusiastic gathering of friends, irrespective of nationality, to wish *Bon Voyage* to the *Maine* on the eve of her departure on her mission of mercy.

The nursing staff of the *Maine* are being hospitably entertained at the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, and the medical staff at the Hotel Carlton, as the contribution of these establishments towards the American Ship Fund.

The second detachment of American nurses for South Africa has left New York for London. It consists of twenty-nine male and female nurses, under Dr. Hastings, an American surgeon. Including the detachment just left, the United States has furnished thirty-five nurses and four surgeons.

One of the Nursing Sisters at the Military Hospital, Ladysmith, writing under date of October 26th, to Sir John Voce Moore, the late Lord Mayor, says:—

"The glorious battle of Elandslaagte was a mighty success, but, as our beloved Queen says, at a terrible cost. All night on Saturday the wounded streamed in, and all day on Sunday we not only had our beds all full, but they were lying about the floor as thickly as we could put them. We could only just step between the men to administer to their wants until their wounds could be dressed. Wounded, wet, and cold, some had been lying thirty hours on the ground. They told a sad tale of suffering, but without a murmur of complaint. Their bravery and endurance are marvellous. Some were so terribly wounded that they succumbed a few hours after their wounds were dressed. The Gordon Highlanders came in for it hot, but they had the satisfaction of avenging Majuba Hill. Unfortunately the battle at Dundee lost us many splendid officers and men, and as the astute Boers cut off our communication our wounded were taken prisoners, and we learn there are about 150 still in Dundee, which has been taken by Boers. We learn they are being well attended by our Army surgeons who also are prisoners. We have several wounded Boer patients, and it is really amusing to see our large-hearted Tommy Atkins fraternising with the enemy.

"A touching little scene happened yesterday. One of the Gordons had his arm amputated. A Boer in the next bed had his arm taken off in exactly the same place. I took charge of the latter as he was brought from the theatre, and on his becoming conscious the two poor fellows eyed each other very much, till our good-natured Tommy could bear it no longer. 'Sister,' he called, 'give him two cigarettes out of my box and tell him I sent them. Here is a match, light one for him.' I took the cigarettes and the message to the Boer, and he turned and looked at Tommy in amazement, and then, quite overcome, he burst into tears. Tommy did the same, and I am afraid I was on the point of joining in the chorus, but time would not permit. We have a splendid staff of skilled surgeons, who are kept constantly at work, and our nursing staff

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