

Army Nursing Notes.

THERE are so many items of interest this week concerning Army Nursing that it is almost impossible to keep up with the times in the limited space at our disposal; but we must do our best.

First and foremost, the departure from St. Bartholomew's at short notice of Sister Rahere, Miss Maud Calverly, and Sister Sitwell, Miss Annie Beardsmore Smith created much excited pleasure at the hospital, and they left the "Square" on Saturday morning last *en route* for the Cape, amidst great enthusiasm, their fellow nurses and the students giving them a most hearty send off amidst cheers. The strains of "Auld Lang Syne" made welcome music.

Then again at Waterloo, where a carriage had been reserved for the Sisters next to that of Lieut-Colonel Sir Charles Warren in the 11.40 express, "Bart's" nurses and doctors were again to the fore, and we can honestly say that no Nursing Sisters have left for the front amidst such enthusiastic expressions of goodwill.

Both Miss Calverly and Miss Beardsmore Smith were trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and have passed through the whole curriculum, Probationer, Staff Nurse, and Sister, the former being the Gold Medallist of her year, and the latter also taking a high place in the final examination.

This is the standard of training which should have been demanded by the Committee of the Army Nursing Reserve, especially for active service abroad, and we must congratulate the War Office on having accepted the services of these highly trained Sisters, and dispatched them to the front, although they only became members of the Reserve a few weeks ago after the War broke out.

The Sisters were made the vehicle of the good will of their hospital school colleagues, nearly thirty pounds having been collected amongst the nursing staff with which to send gifts to "Tommy"; compressed soups, briar pipes, tobacco, writing paper and envelopes, and "something in hand" for emergencies cheered the Sisters on their way.

They sailed from Southampton on the *Norham Castle*, and are at first deputed to duty to Sir James Sivewright's "Camp of Rest" Military Convalescent Homes, so generously given by him for the use of the sick and wounded. These

Homes are established on several of Sir James' properties in the Hottentots Holland district, and placed by him at the disposal of the Government, and are within easy distance by rail of Cape Town.

The properties are named Lourensford, Oakwood, Seaman's Hope, and Vergelegen, the last-named being the historic residence of William Achiaam Van der Stell, one of the earliest Dutch governors. Under the scheme as now perfected, Lourensford and Oakwood, both completely furnished and equipped for the accommodation of at least forty convalescents, will be allocated to the officers, and in the event of space being available, to the non-commissioned officers and privates.

Three of these Homes will be in charge of Miss Cumming Page, sister of Lady Sivewright, who also sailed on the *Norham Castle*, and of Mrs. Makins, wife of one of the consulting surgeons in South Africa, and of Army Nursing Sister Grey, of the Guards' Hospital respectively, each having another nurse with her; and they will all be prepared to exchange with nurses at the front when the latter need rest or change. The last-named ladies sail to-day, Saturday, 2nd inst.

Money is pouring in for the benefit of our soldiers and their families. Sir Thomas Lipton has placed £10,000 at the disposal of the Princess of Wales, and Mr. R. Lucas Tooth has sent £10,000 to the Mansion House Transvaal War Fund.

The generosity of the public on behalf of the soldiers at the front has been so widespread that it has become a matter of the greatest difficulty to deal with the mass of goods destined for "Tommy."

Day by day we are inundated with requests for instructions as to how to send parcels of books, articles of clothing, tobacco, and table luxuries out to the seat of war, and it appears that the authorities at the War Office are similarly besieged.

An idea of the strength of the medical establishments on service when the whole force has arrived, excluding those which are usually present in Cape Colony in time of peace, may be derived from the following figures:—

Medical Officers, R.A.M.C.	...	282
Civilian Surgeons	...	68
Nursing Sisters, including four	...	
Superintendents	...	56

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)