

No less than nine successful prosecutions, ordered by the Commissioners in Lunacy, and six carried out by Asylum Committees, have been brought during twelve months against attendants and nurses for ill-usage of patients in asylums. In one case of assault by two attendants on a patient at the Northumberland County Asylum, each defendant was fined £15, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment. After all, the members of the nursing profession have some cause for congratulation, for although they are by no means perfect, there is not such a black record of public prosecution against them, for which they may thank the promoters of the meeting of protest held at St. Martin's Town Hall, against the registration of asylum attendants, as trained nurses, for if the officials of the Royal British Nurses' Association had had their way, all asylum attendants would now rank as trained nurses, and the nursing profession would have had to bear the disgrace involved in these prosecutions.

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FROM the *British Medical Journal* we gather, from "a South African Campaigner," many useful hints which may be useful to nurses.

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WITH reference to the food supply it is certain that a large quantity of tinned meat and vegetables will have to be taken. At the same time there is no reason why fresh meat should not be made available for at least an occasional ration. During a campaign in which the writer served in South Africa a troop of cattle was taken with the column wherever it moved. Over an open country there is not much difficulty about this, and both meat and milk are thus supplied.

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The paper recently issued by the War Office showing the medical arrangements for the field force on service abroad in South Africa, and dealing with medical equipment and supplies, transport, sanitation, equipment for nursing sisters, rations, and other important matters contains an Appendix (V) headed 'Sanitary Notes (Natal and Transvaal), Climate.' The warning given as to the great variations between the day and night temperatures is certainly based on accurate observations, and is very valuable. All troops who may have to bivouac in the open, as many of our men will be called upon to do, should be provided with woollen night caps. The Tam O'Shanter is an excellent cap in its way for this purpose. It is certain that one of the essential precautions necessary for sleeping in the open is the provision of adequate covering for the head at night. A long woollen cap, such as is used by sailors on yachts, formed a part of the kit of the men in a campaign through which I served in South

Africa. Among the precautions required on account of climate, waterproof sheets and cloaks as protection against the heavy rains are recommended. There is nothing more trying to troops on the march than having to bivouac or camp at night upon damp ground. This is a contingency which frequently arises during the heavy summer rains, and one of the most practical and simple precautions which can be adopted against this evil is the provision of a waterproof sheet, say 6 feet by 3, which the soldier can place on the ground beneath him. A small sheet of this sort can be, if necessary, carried by mounted infantry and cavalry when away from the main column on distant patrols, as it goes readily with the blanket on the saddle.

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SUITABLE headdress as a protection against the sun is another precaution recommended; and in reference to that I should like to say that, while the helmet is a universally approved mode of headdress for tropical climates, it nevertheless has undoubted objections as a headdress for the soldier during a campaign. It is an impossible thing to lie down in it, and it very soon loses its smart appearance; further, in really great heat I question whether the helmet gives such protection from the sun as is obtained, say, from a wideawake hat with a puggaree. The advantages of the wideawake, which is used by all Colonial troops, are many; the men can sleep in it at night, or during the midday halt can lie down on the ground in it. For the rough and tumble of camp life it is an infinitely more comfortable and more suitable headdress than the helmet.

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A FOURTH precaution recommended in Appendix V. is 'warm clothing, even in summer, in the Drakensberg country.' I would point out that the period spent by troops in the Drakensberg country is not likely to be at all prolonged, nor is there any appreciable degree of cold in the summer. The Drakensberg consists of the somewhat mountainous country between Ladysmith and the Transvaal frontier. For the main column proceeding from the south there will be no mountains to be encountered; and although I believe serge to be a better material than khaki, there is no reason to suppose that during the summer anything in the shape of really thick clothing will be required by the great majority of our troops.

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AMONGST other hospitals, St. George's has now raised its term of training to four years. Many nurses will consider this a long apprenticeship; but it is the general tendency of all highly skilled callings to steadily increase the term of education required from its members.

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