

in South Africa, to be used either as part of a base hospital of 520 beds, or else as a station hospital on the line of communication.

But, of course, we are more interested in the *personnel* of the nursing staff, and it is with pleasure we learn that Mr. Bowlby specially requested that Miss Edith Pretty should be one of the number, and that her colleagues will consist of Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Alice M. Davis, and Miss Russell—all trained nurses of experience.

Miss Edith Pretty (one of our own Pros.) was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital from 1884-87, and, when certificated, remained in the hospital until she was appointed Matron of the Miller Memorial Hospital, Greenwich, where she worked for two years, returning in 1891 to her *Alma Mater*, as Sister Surgery, a position she held with distinction until 1894. In 1894 Miss Pretty opened a Home Hospital at 12, Beaumont Street, which has been deservedly successful.

In a little chat with Miss Pretty this week, we learned that she considered her selection for work at the front "as the chance of a life-time," and that she is looking forward with delight to taking part in the care of the brave fellows risking their lives so pluckily at the call of duty.

Miss Cox-Davies—Sister Faith at "Bart's"—has been granted six months' leave of absence by the Committee of her hospital. She has also been trained and certificated in that historic institution, and has earned for herself the highest professional reputation. Miss Cox-Davies has, since July last, acted as Secretary to the Provisional Committee of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, and hands it over to the new Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Walter Spencer, with a roll of upwards of 250 members.

Miss Alice Davies is well known to RECORD readers. She was trained for three years and certificated at King's College Hospital in 1897, and was one of the four Sisters selected by us by command of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, upon the request of the Crown Princess of Greece, to nurse the wounded in the Græco-Turkish War. Miss Davies proved herself of the right stuff for active service, and did good work under very difficult circumstances in Epirus, and was later deputed to duty at the English Hospital established at Chalcis, in Eubœa. Miss Davies received this year, in conjunction with all the Nursing Sisters on the staff of the English National Fund for the Greek wounded, the Commemorative Medal and Diploma of the Greek Red

Cross from the Queen of the Hellenes. We consider Miss Davies *very* fortunate in being chosen again for the patriotic work of nursing in war.

Miss Russell has been trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, and it seems very appropriate that a Nightingale nurse should be amongst the Sisters sent to South Africa. We are informed that these ladies have now joined the Army Nursing Service Reserve, so that all should be *en regle*.

We took the precaution last week in writing of the hospital ship *Princess of Wales*, "to hope" she was well on her way to the Cape, because a rumour was afloat that, owing to defective machinery, she was on her way back to dock.

Unfortunately, this rumour has proved to be true, and it is now known that this ship is buoyed off Gravesend, undergoing repairs and refitting, which may delay her departure from England for several weeks, her boilers having exploded, and, upon investigation, the machinery has been found in a most defective condition, rendering the ship quite useless until repaired. This is a very serious matter, for which some one is surely responsible and blameworthy, and hushing up the disaster will not mend matters.

We are specially sorry that this breakdown should have happened to the name-ship of the Princess of Wales, whose tender solicitude for the sick and wounded is characteristic and genuine, and whose charity is always evinced with such truly philanthropic reticence and modesty.

The time is coming when wounds will not be the worst ills our soldiers have to fear, as, owing to the South African climate, pneumonia and dysentery are sure to claim their victims. Mr. Julian Ralph writes on the uncertainty of weather and climate in the *Daily Mail*:—"To be perfectly happy anywhere between the Cape and the Zambesi the traveller should take a fig-leaf for a daytime costume and a Laplander's suit of furs for the night-time. I take off all that the law allows every day, and then gasp in the shade of my tent, but at night I do myself up in a lambs-wool blanket, two ordinary blankets, and a steamer rug, and lie down to listen to the rattle of my teeth, until the sun begins to blaze through the canvas at daybreak. We who are at the head-quarters at De Aar are having what the tradesmen would call a choice line of selected weathers, every known kind coming in each twenty-four hours, and all served to us in wholesale lots." Nurses will be wise to take warm clothing with them, under these circumstances.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)