

of the second ambulance of the Red Cross, I beg you to assure the Sisters, who are accompanying you, that my prayers go with you all. May God bless the work of the ambulance and protect its members while fulfilling their duty of love and self-sacrifice.

EMMA."

At Amsterdam, at the *Handelskade*, the steamer *Herzog* lay at anchor waiting for the arrival of the Dutch and the Belgian ambulances. A large crowd was assembled on board the *Herzog* and on the quay. The weather was far from favourable, but the numerous sympathizing and interested persons, who were desirous of offering their farewell-greetings to the noble men and women, leaving their country, and so much that is dear to them, in order to alleviate the cruelties and sufferings of war, were unable to keep at home. The band of the *Herzog* played the national songs of Holland and the Transvaal. In one of the saloons a great abundance of flowers, all offered to the Sisters as a kind homage, were the visible proofs of the deeply felt sympathy and appreciation. The Dutch Nursing Magazine, the *Maandblad voor Ziekenverpleging*, had offered a basket with exquisite fruits to the departing ambulance. Here Mr. W. J. Vervloet, Secretary of the Head-Committee of the Dutch Red Cross, assembled the members of the Dutch expedition. Miss Slot and her six nurses, the three physicians (a fourth doctor is to join the Dutch ambulance)—Dr. Koster, Dr. Schelkley, and Dr. Metz, and the four male nurses. He wished to speak a few words to them and to bid them farewell, not only in the name of the Head-Committee, but also in that of the whole Dutch nation. "Presently," he said, "when Holland's lessening shore will bring a tear of longing sadness and dear remembrance into your eyes, those of so many, who are remaining here, will also be moist when looking after the Dutch ambulance, starting for the Dutch Continent, to save those who may yet be saved among the victims of destroying passion. It is a great privilege to witness such a thing; it is a comforting thought that the love of humanity has not been found wanting under the strain of the passion of war, that is severing man from man."

"Your leader," Mr. Venlaet said, at the end of his speech, "has taken a heavy responsibility. May each of you feel that he or she has to share that responsibility with him. Be faithful to each other and remember in dark moments of depression and discouragement that we are suffering with you; that hundreds and thousands in our dear country are with you in their thoughts. May Heaven grant you a happy return! May the truth of the words of our late King be proved

now, in serving humanity, that a small people can also be great."

The President of the Head-Committee of the Dutch Red Cross, the Baron Hardenbroek van Bergambacht, took part in this simple, but touching ceremony. Some moments before the hour of departure the Belgian and the Dutch ambulance joined on the deck of the *Herzog*.

At eleven o'clock the *Herzog* left the quay at Amsterdam. Notwithstanding the very bad weather a large number of persons were present at Ymuiden to see the *Herzog* putting to sea. The steamer arrived there only at three o'clock. Sister Slot was standing on the bridge; all the Sisters held flowers in their hands. At Ymuiden also a kind homage was paid to the departing ambulance and bouquets were offered to all the nurses. Hearty farewell-greetings were exchanged, and, accompanied by the loud cheers of the assembled crowd on the piers, the *Herzog* began her voyage to far-away South Africa.

HOLLANDIA.

## The League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses.

### THE INAUGURAL MEETING.

AN air of keen anticipation pervaded the precincts of the Nurses' Home of St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Monday last, when no less than seventy past and present nurses of the hospital met on the occasion of the inaugural meeting of the new League. Many old friendships were renewed, and the moments passed quickly before the business of the afternoon began.

The Chair was taken by Miss Isla Stewart, the Matron of the Hospital, and she was supported by the following members of the Provisional Committee:—Mrs. Walter Spencer (formerly Sister Stanley), Mrs. Lancelot Andrews (formerly Sister John, and gold medallist of her year), Miss Emmie Lofts, Matron of the Lewisham Infirmary, Miss Kathleen Burleigh, Matron of the Fountain Fever Hospital, Miss Finch, Matron of the New Hospital for Women, Miss Davis (Sister Ophthalmic), Miss Ellen Greenstreet (Sister Mark), and Miss Waind (formerly Sister Stanley).

### THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Miss Stewart opened the proceedings by expressing her great pleasure at seeing so many of the old nurses of the hospital assembled. They had all, she thought, severed their connection with the hospital with regret and even sorrow, and she desired to assure them of the pleasure and pride which she felt in welcoming them there to form themselves into an association.

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