

welcome gift, has also sent a tartan shawl to each of the Sisters of the *Maine*.

An admirable suggestion was recently made in the columns of the *Daily Chronicle* by the Lady Superintendent of the National Training School of Cookery, that cooks, trained in the preparation of invalid dietary, should be sent to the seat of war to undertake the cooking in the hospital. There is no doubt that suitable diet plays an important part in the treatment of the sick and wounded, and materially aids speedy recovery.

This being so, however, is a proof of the opinion we have always held and asserted that practical invalid cookery should be included in the three years' curriculum of trained nurses. As it is at present exceptional for nurses to receive instruction in sick cookery, the suggestion that cooks experienced in this art should be sent out to South Africa is a valuable one, but for future organization it is desirable that qualified nurses should be able to act as Superintendents of the domestic departments of our field hospitals, and, if necessary, to prepare the food for the invalids with their own hands.

Sad as it is to own, the national sympathies of most European countries are with the Boers; and the crushing of the Dutch Republics, by a great monarchical power, is the reason advanced for this sympathy. Be this as it may, the elaborate festival on Monday, held in Berlin in aid of the Red Cross funds, was made the occasion of a striking manifestation of sympathy with the Boers. News of similar demonstrations comes from Russia. At a similar function at St. Petersburg the entire audience rose to their feet, while the Transvaal anthem was played thrice in succession.

The German steamer *König* has arrived safely at Lorenzo Marques, bringing a large contingent of the German and Dutch Red Cross societies, and members of which are now, no doubt, safely at Pretoria. The arrival of the Dutch nurses should be a great relief to those having dear ones held captive at the Transvaal capital, as they are thoroughly efficient women, and will, no doubt, gladly take care of sick prisoners, of whom there are sure to be many before their day of release is at hand.

The ambulance detachment of the Russian Red Cross Society, which has been equipped for service with the Boer forces, left St. Petersburg on Sunday evening for the seat of war. The detachment will proceed direct to the front on its arrival in South Africa.

The Matrons' Council "At Home."

It is marvellous how much nursing affairs may be advanced by social intercourse. This has been proved by the gatherings of the Matrons' Council and the resulting co-operation and sympathy between nurses and others interested in nursing matters.

It was a happy idea, therefore, for the Matrons' Council, to be At Home at the Medical Society's Rooms in Chandos Street on the 7th inst., to meet the medical officers, Miss Hibbard, and the nursing staff of the *Maine*. In spite of the miserable weather, there were present upwards of a hundred and fifty members and guests, who were received by the Chairman of the Council, Miss Isla Stewart, and the Senior Councillor, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

The rooms and tea tables were charmingly decorated with yellow and white chrysanthemums and maiden-hair ferns, and Sister Cartwright and Sisters Hurlston, Lannowe, Flanagan, Sadlier and Amanda Jones, of the Registered Nurses' Society, busily dispensed hospitality in the Library. They wore their neat uniforms and badges, and little bouquets of crimson geraniums, the flower in favour with members of the Society on full dress occasions.

Miss Hibbard, in inspection uniform of white and gold, and the Sisters in their blue duck dresses and "cute" little caps, were, of course, warmly welcomed, and, apparently, all present were anxious for a word with them on this happy occasion when British nurses welcomed their American colleagues with the warmest expressions of regard. They also greatly appreciated the presence of Dr. Charles S. Weber, Dr. Harry H. Rodman and Dr. Dodge, of the medical staff of the *Maine*.

Amongst the guests who accepted invitations, and most of whom were present, in spite of the weather, were:—The Director-General of the Army Medical Department, General Muir, Sir John and Lady Furley (so soon leaving for the front), Sir George Warrender (whose daughter goes with Lady Randolph Churchill on the *Maine*), Mrs. Hugh Reid Griffin (President of the Society of American Women in London), Lady Hamilton (of the Pioneer), Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, Miss Hurlbatt (Bedford College), Mrs. Lauder Brunton, Mrs. Howard Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Spencer, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Mrs. Burgwin, Miss A. M. Hall, Miss Balgarnie, Mrs. Mackenzie Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. James Berry, Mr. and Mrs. Cross, Miss O'Conor Eccles, Canon and Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Dora Montefiore, Miss Genevieve Ward, Miss March Phillipps, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Osborn, Miss Campbell and Miss Rowe.

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