

Army Nursing Notes.

The Queen has intimated her intention of paying a visit to Netley Hospital at an early date.

Much interest has been centred, during the last week, in the *Maine*, and the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Blow, was overwhelmed with applications from those desirous of viewing her before she starts on her mission of mercy. A favoured few were present on Saturday last, when the Union Jack, the gift of the Queen, was presented by the Duke of Connaught. This flag is unique, inasmuch as it is charged in the centre with a white medallion, bearing the red Geneva Cross.

During the ceremony of presentation by the Duke of Connaught, who was accompanied by the Duchess, the Princess Louise also being present, the nurses of the ship, both male and female, assembled on the deck, and, with Miss Hibbard at their head, were accorded a prominent position. Miss Hibbard wore a workman-like black gown, and her women colleagues appeared in blue duck dresses, and warm blue capes, while on their heads were the little white caps with which we are now familiar. The male nurses, a fine, well set up set of men, looked well in dark blue suits, with gilt buttons; on the left arm of the close-fitting coat was a red cross, and, on the collar, they wore the graduates' badge of the Mills Training School, described last week, a gold cross bearing the word "Bellevue." They also wore round white caps, with a straight peak in the front, and the costume, as a whole, left little to be desired.

The Union Jack was run up to the head of the main mast and unfurled by the Duke amid the cheers of the spectators and the strains of "Rule Britannia," played by the band of the Scots Guards. It will be a surprise to many that this American ship sails under the Union Jack instead of under the Stars and Stripes, and we could wish, and we believe that many Americans share our wish, that the scheme had been carried through without the patronage of Royalty being requisitioned. To the British Public the presence of Royalty at any function is always a delight, but there are deeply founded memories perpetuated amongst the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers which naturally arouse different feelings.

The ceremony over, those on board inspected the wards, which, although low, appear very well ventilated. In the five wards there is accommodation for 218 patients. They are named the

Britannia, Columbia, Whitelaw Reid, Bernard Baker, and Committee, the last being a small ward for isolation cases. The cots, which are supplied with wire-woven and hair mattresses, are enamelled white, while the upper part of some fifty of them is moveable and can be arranged as a bed rest if required. The fine fresh linen of the sheets and pillow cases is charming, and the white quilts are all that can be desired. White enamelled bed tables are attached to each cot, and must add greatly to the comfort of the patients. Electric light is supplied to each ward, and there are electric bells communicating with the Commanding Officer's room and that of the Lady Superintendent.

The fittings of the ship include an operating theatre, with X-ray apparatus, a laundry, and steam disinfectant, and a linen room. There are also a steam kitchen for the wards, in addition to that for the saloon, which is fitted with electric grids and electric kettles, and a refrigerating and ice-making machine. Lastly must be mentioned the Berkenfeld filters fitted in each ward, which supply 25 gallons of distilled water every hour.

We must not omit to mention the charming medicine chest specially designed by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co. We are glad that amongst the portraits appearing on its exterior which is Carthaginian cowhide, and upon which the designs are tooled by hand is one of George Washington. On the front panel a picture of the hospital ship *Maine*; a scene representing the British Lion wounded by an arrow (which lies broken at his side) being administered to by Britannia and Columbia—Columbia pouring a healing balm upon the wound, whilst Britannia bandages the paw. A frieze is formed by a representation of American Indian Wampum, upon which are depicted Brother Jonathan and John Bull grasping hands. The whole of the medical equipment of the ship is also contributed by Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome.

A hospital train, for the Red Cross Society, has been built at Birmingham, consisting of seven carriages, and containing accommodation for eighteen invalids, two medical officers, two nurses, and four orderlies. There are also compartments for stores, a surgery, and a dining room. The train will be shipped for South Africa immediately.

Lord Lansdowne has arranged with the Seamen's Hospital Society that a certain number of beds in the Society's Branch Hospital in the Royal Victoria and Albert Docks shall be placed at the disposal of the War Office for the reception of

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