

Such was my life; and so thankful I was, that I was privileged to care for our brave men—they are brave and true. Last Friday I had orders from the principal medical officer to accompany the ambulance train, with ten officers and 200 Regulars, to Durban and then return. We got nearly to Colenso, where the Boers were firing; but they dared not fire on the Red Cross, so I, with other nurses and orderlies, brought the wounded down to Durban; here I put them on the Sumatra, to take them to Cape Town. Of course, neither I nor the ambulance train could return to Ladysmith, as the Boers have torn up the rail, and we are quite cut off from Ladysmith. So I had official orders to await here until Ladysmith was opened and return there. I see they have moved the wounded out of the town, four miles out, since I left. One of my night nurses in Johannesburg Hospital was nursing in one of the tents, and a great many nurses from Netley and everywhere.

All trained nurses everywhere have been commanded for active service, if necessary, by the Government. All food-stuff is double price, all residents have to take in the refugees, and so many nurses at the wharf to go with each ship of wounded men. One cannot earn any money; everyone has to give his or her services. We have martial law, and this week big guns are put up on the Berea here, and outside are lying the warships, the *Powerful*, *Terrible*, and others.

People cannot imagine at home the hardships here just now, and yet I am glad I am in it. So many killed we all know who belong to the Colony. One doctor, a Major G—, only arrived from India and went up with me. The first time of going on to the field he was picking up a wounded man, when he was shot through, and, strange to say, brought into our tents. They operated on him, but he died. I felt so sad. In spite of his Red Cross they fired on him, and then people call the Boers Christians! No one has any right to shoot on a Red Cross man or place. They put his Red Cross on me, and I have worn it ever since. One felt so near to death when one looked out of the tents and saw the Indian bearers carry out all the dead during the day and silently committing them to their last resting-place. Truly they will have won a martyr's crown.

I saw the last of the Gordon Highlanders leave for the next attack, and as they left camp, marching out to attack the enemy, playing the bagpipes, one felt how cruel was war. We are all hard at it. We are making linen bandages, padding, splints, cotton-wool jackets, etc., for the Army Department. They give out so much for nurses to do for them."

## Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States.

### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

(MRS. ISABEL HAMPTON ROBB.)

#### SOME OF THE LESSONS OF THE LATE WAR AND THEIR BEARING UPON TRAINED NURSING.

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The fate of the bill still lies in the future as there was not time for it to come before the Senate at the last session. The work done for it so far goes to show how warmly the public as well as the Government approve of it, for it has already received a majority vote in Congress which undoubtedly would have been larger had there been a clear understanding in the minds of all the representatives as to some of its details. There was unexpected opposition on the part of the National Red Cross Society, whose privileges and work we had no thought of interfering with; on the contrary, we had hoped, by our own organization, to render their work in the future much more efficient for the reason that they would not longer have to depend upon Auxiliaries to supply them with nurses in times of emergency. Again it would be a mistake to assume that the bill would debar any Red Cross nurse from serving, for its measures allow for the acceptance of any or all trained nurses, provided they enter the army nursing corps in the prescribed way and can meet the requirements necessary for a fixed standard of ability, health, education and morals.

And now what is the duty of each individual, right-minded, trained nurse in regard to this bill? It is that she shall give it her loyal support in all legitimate ways known to her until it becomes a law. It will be presented to Congress at its next session, and between now and then she should work for it untiringly, for if successful it means that the professional standing and standard for the trained nurse will have been won, for we shall have the seal and the recognition of the nation stamped upon us which should incite us to greater efforts to prove ourselves worthy of so great an honour and trust. At the present time there is no modern system of army nursing in any country, and it should be our pride and pleasure to make that of the United States one that would be an object lesson for all countries to follow.

If the bill, however, should fail, then we shall, as a body and as individuals, have a still graver question to face. Shall we be loyal and strong enough to stand by the standard we are striving to make for ourselves, or shall we dissipate our forces and enlist as in the old way under any society, under any leadership, and with any kind of nurses? The past 25 years has shown a

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