

The *Central News* reports from Durban on Monday:—"An ambulance train arrived to-day with about one hundred wounded soldiers from the hospitals of Maritzburg, this being the first batch of invalids for the hospital ship *Maine*. Several were taken to the hospital ship *Nubia*, which has now got its full complement. All the serious cases from the Colenso battle were put on board the *Maine*. Lady Randolph Churchill superintended all the arrangements for the reception of the men on board the *Maine*, and personally directed the berthing. Lady Randolph was here, there, and everywhere, flitting about amongst the invalids like a 'ministering angel.'"

We hope this does not indicate that the very able, thoroughly trained Superintendent of Nursing, Miss Hibbard, is incapacitated for duty by ill-health.

The five other hospital ships have been doing splendid work, all having been to Durban to convey the wounded to the Cape. Whilst at Durban, the American *Maine* was thrown open to visitors, and a great number of persons inspected this floating palace of pain.

Lord Roberts, upon arrival at the Cape, immediately requisitioned that more trained Sisters should be employed, and we are very pleased to hear that the forty nurses expelled from the Johannesburg Hospital by the Boers, are to be employed as necessity arises. This ought to have been done weeks ago.

The special correspondent of the *Lancet* writes that, upon the arrival of the *Princess of Wales* hospital ship at the Cape, he had "heard rumours of sundry mishaps that had occurred on her voyage out." However, we may assume that she was once more botched up at the Cape, as it is reported that she left for home on Wednesday, the 24th ult., with 174 military invalids on board, and is due at Southampton on the 26th inst., so that 33 days are to be allowed for the journey. We hope no "mishaps" will occur on the homeward journey, and that as soon as she arrives she may be thoroughly overhauled by disinterested experts, and made absolutely seaworthy before making a second voyage.

It is reported that Colonel Young, the Red Cross Commissioner, is returning to this country, as his services can no longer be dispensed with by the Patriotic Fund Committee. Sir John Furley, director of the Ambulance Department of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and a member

of the Central British Red Cross Committee, who went out to Cape Town about a month ago, will probably take up the duties of Chief Red Cross Commissioner in South Africa.

Miss Russell, of Hamilton, Ontario, one of the nurses who went out to South Africa with the first Canadian contingent, dates a letter from General Hospital No. 1, Wynberg, Cape Town, to a Canadian paper, in which she says:—

"I, together with the other three nurses, am stationed at the base hospital, while the men of the contingent were at De Aar Junction when we last heard of them. We saw the boys off from Greenwood, where they were camped. They marched from there to the train. The crowd which gathered to see them off was immense, and the reception they received was a most enthusiastic one. The residents say the Canadians are the most popular regiment which has yet arrived. The men suffered from the heat, and were much disappointed when they discovered that the nurses who had accompanied them from Canada were not to go the front with them."

In the course of her letter Miss Russell states that she is the youngest nurse in the British Army. The duty, she says, is hard. The nurses go on at 9 a.m., and come off at 9 p.m. Breakfast is served at 8.30, lunch at 1 p.m., and dinner at 9 p.m.

"We generally retire at 12 o'clock. There are 600 patients here and only 16 nurses, so you can imagine how hard we have to work. I have been nursing the Queen's cousin, Major the Count Gleichen, and several generals, colonels, and majors. I prefer the ordinary 'Tommies,' though; they are not so fussy as the officers. We get absolutely no war news here."

The St. Andrew's Ambulance Association has determined to take up the work of a Red Cross Society. Scotland has never possessed a branch of the society, and has, therefore, been unable to do anything in the way of organized work for the sick and wounded in war. It has been decided to institute a base hospital at Cape Town or elsewhere in South Africa, to be known as the Scottish National Red Cross Hospital. It is to have 100 beds, and the staff will consist entirely of Edinburgh doctors and nurses.

Arrangements have been entered into with the Red Cross Society and other societies at the Cape that care for the sick and wounded, whereby the Absent-minded Beggar Relief Corps takes entire charge of home-coming sick and wounded from the time they reach the transports until they arrive in England. By entire charge is meant the supplying invalided soldiers with clothing, delicacies, and comforts.

This is good news for "Tommy." The *Daily Mail* says:—"Our Cape Town branch cables that these arrangements and the scheme of our work at the Cape have received the hearty sanction and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)