

commendation of Sir Alfred Milner, Lord Roberts, and the military and medical authorities generally. The commendation of the Governor and of the Comamnder-in-Chief was possibly inspired by the object-lesson given by our Cape Town staff with their first two ships, the *Assaye* and the *Princess of Wales* hospital ship. All of the men on both ships were fully supplied by the A.M.B. Relief Corps with woollen underclothing, pipes, tobacco, fresh fruit, and other comforts and necessities. The ships' officers and the men were warmly grateful."

A private in the 2nd Coldstream Guards, writing on January fifth from Wynberg Hospital to his home in Lincolnshire, gives graphic personal details of the Modder River Battle. He says:—

"I happened to find a bit of looking-glass. It made a rare bit of fun. As it was passed from comrade to comrade they said, 'Have a last look at yourself, my boy, and bid yourself good-bye.' The laugh went round. Then 'Advance!' and we were at it again."

An officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps, in a letter from Ladysmith dated 7th January, says:—

"One of the Boer medical officers rode in to us under a Red Cross flag, and asked us to go and bury our dead, which, of course, we did. But the sight of those poor fellows lying on the hill, some of them dreadfully riddled with bullets, I can never forget. The Boers were very good; in fact, one would hardly have thought they were enemies. They talked to us quite freely, and helped us to dig the graves and to carry our dead. There was one very touching incident. After our major had read the Burial Service one of the Boers stepped out and said a short prayer, hoping the war would soon end, and while we stood with heads uncovered they sang a hymn in Dutch. It cut our fellows up very much indeed, and we could hardly speak for some time."

The Plague in India.

THE number of deaths from plague in Bombay on Tuesday last was 408, the highest number yet recorded. Small-pox is also raging, and other diseases are epidemic. In providing for the needs of our soldiers in South Africa, we must not forget those of our Indian Empire.

London Streets.

A Discussion, on the "Insanitary Condition of the London Streets," will be opened at the Sanitary Institute, Parkes' Museum, Margaret Street, on Wednesday, February 14th, at 8 p.m., by Mr. Wm. Nisbet Blair, M.Inst.C.E.

Nursing Politics.

THE Royal British Nurses' Association is becoming quite imperial in its pronouncements. The editorial in the current issue of the official organ ends with the following bombastic sentence:—"We believe that the most varying interests and opinions in the nursing world may find a common basis of agreement in the high standard of training (nurses who have failed to gain the certificate of their training school are still accepted, if they only put in time in a hospital of 40 beds), a character to which the Corporation is pledged, and the members of a profession whose services are needed wherever the British flag is planted, can recognize no narrower bounds to the expansion of their Association than the limits of the Empire itself."

On the following page we find the report of the Quarterly Meeting of the General Council, on the 26th of January, from which we learn "there was a small attendance of members." No names are given, and "*the necessary quorum of fifteen* being assembled, the Chair was taken by Mr. Pickering Pick." Truly an imperial gathering!

The whole business, as usual, was conducted by medical men; there was a man in the Chair; a male Treasurer presented the financial report: this was seconded by Mr. Gant, F.R.C.S. (of "Satan in Petticoats" fame); a medical Hon. Secretary read the Report of the Executive Committee, which was seconded by Dr. Graham. No nurse member is reported as taking any part in the proceedings whatever. We wonder if there were any present at the meeting?

At the Second Sessional Lecture, delivered by Mr. Sidney Spokes, M.R.C.S., the Chair was again occupied by a medical man.

And with reference to the formation of a Society of Nurses disqualified by age from joining the established Co-operations of Private Nurses, Dr. Wethered, of course, of Middlesex Hospital, has been selected as Hon. Secretary, instead of an experienced nurse.

Our statement that the entire management of the Nurses' Association has been nobbled by the medical members, which has been so hotly denied by the Hon. Officers over and over again, could not receive more valuable confirmation than that contained in, and quoted by us from the current issue of the official organ of the Association.

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