

The Royal Navy Nursing Service.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., one of the Lords of the Admiralty, on Tuesday received a deputation from the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, who laid before him various practical suggestions as to the organization of the Navy Nursing Service. The deputation consisted of the President of the Society, Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, formerly Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss M. Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital; and Miss M. Breay, formerly Matron of the Metropolitan Hospital. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., was accompanied by Sir Henry Norbury, K.C.B., M.D., Director-General of the Medical Department. Important details affecting the Nursing Service were discussed at considerable length, and Mr. Chamberlain, who evinced the greatest interest in the whole subject, intimated that he would bring the various suggestions made by the Matrons' Council before his colleagues. The deputation cordially thanked Mr. Chamberlain for the courteous reception he had accorded to their views, and withdrew.

Appointments.**MATRON.**

MISS J. FORSYTH has been appointed Matron of the Private Hospital for Women, George Street, Edinburgh. She was trained for three years at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and has also worked in the Longmore Hospital for Incurables, where she at present holds the position of Staff Nurse.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

MISS CLARA HOADLEY has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the National Hospital for Consumption, Ireland. Miss Hoadley was trained for one and a half years at Guy's Hospital, and was for some years on the private nursing staff of that institution. She has also held the position of Matron of the Goole Cottage Hospital, and since 1898 has been Assistant Matron at the Royal Infirmary, Preston.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

MISS BESSIE BUTLER has been appointed Assistant Matron at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum. Miss Butler was trained for three years at the General Hospital, Bristol, where she also held the position of Sister of the Casualty and Out-Patient Department. Her present post is that of Night Superintendent at the Swansea Hospital. Miss Butler holds excellent testimonials.

Army Nursing Notes.

LONDON, and, indeed, the English-speaking world, went mad with joy over the relief of Ladysmith, and, verily, the time was short in which to save the situation—the garrison and people were on the verge of starvation, and their sufferings have been terrible.

The food supply and ammunition were almost exhausted, and half a pound of horse flesh, which few could digest, three quarters of a pound of bread, half a pound of biscuit, one ounce of sugar, and three quarters of an ounce of tea, were barely enough to keep body and soul together; we learn it was pitiful to see the pale, listless, shabby men of the garrison—the wreck of the splendid force that took the field in the latter weeks of October. Some of the regiments, indeed, can muster now only a quarter of their former strength, and some time must elapse, with careful nursing and proper feeding, before they can be considered fit for active work.

Although the actual mortality remained low until the middle of January, and disease was not really virulent, the general health of the troops suffered severely from the want of good nourishing food and of essential comforts. As many as 8,424 passed through the hospitals, and the daily average under treatment ranged from 1,500 to 2,000. There were 1,710 cases of enteric fever alone.

But now all is changed—the sick and wounded are being tenderly cared for, many moved to more bracing surroundings, and food and comforts poured into the town. The saddest sight to the brave new-comers are the closely-packed little graves, where the heroic dead lie quietly, troubling never more.

Lord Roberts has expressed himself much gratified by finding the enthusiasm amongst Kimberley people in regard to the care of our sick and wounded. All public buildings are turned into hospitals, and he found the men most comfortable. He was struck by the friendly manner in which the wounded Boers and our men chatted together over their experiences of the campaign, and it delighted him to see our soldiers sharing their rations of biscuits with the Boer prisoners before they commenced their march from the Modder River. Some of the poor fellows were very hungry after having been half starved in the laager.

The Welsh Field Hospital is to be on the lines of the Langman Hospital, and will be dispatched

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