

and, after visiting the South, proceeds along the Orange River.

That Miss Kingsley is deeply interested in the comfort and welfare of our sick and wounded soldiers is well known, and it is to be hoped that she will visit the hospitals, and we feel sure so charming and cheery a woman will be received with delight by Sisters and nurses. Miss Kingsley might also turn her most practical mind to the vexed question of the distribution of stores, which appear to be landed at the Cape and remain there. Tommie in Natal would like his share.

The *Princess of Wales* hospital ship has been thoroughly overhauled since she returned, a fortnight ago, and the electric light and, no doubt, other departments put in repair. She is making a second journey to the Cape. It is to be hoped her centre of gravity is now correct.

The members of the medical and nursing staffs of the Scottish Base Hospital bade farewell to the Lord Provost and Mrs. Mitchell Thomson at the Council Chambers, Edinburgh, previous to their departure for South Africa.

Letters are appearing in the Irish press from some of the Volunteer nurses belonging to the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, now working at No. 1 Wynberg Hospital. One writes:—

"This is the principal Camp Hospital, holds over 1,000 patients, nurses, medical staff, &c. We are very comfortable, and the army people have a house furnished (£18 per month) for the nurses; each four nurses are entitled to a servant. We have a regular 'Topsy,' and I am appointed housekeeper for the time being. We are allowed servants' wages, coal, and £1 per week each, for food extra, but the price of food is awful, and it will take us all our time to manage it from above amount. The patients are six in a tent, and so many tents for each nurse. We have the officers' quarters. Patients are coming down every day from the front.

"There is no system whatever as to work. You can do as you like."

Another touches on a very important subject, as the Nursing Sisters have an allowance for food:—"We are allowed £1 per week each for food, and a servant paid for us. 1s. 6d. for a 6d. pot of jam, butter from 2s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per lb., and everything else just as expensive."

We do not doubt the Superintendent Sisters will represent to head quarters if the allowance of £1 is not sufficient to supply a liberal allowance of food, at the present prices; but as the nursing staff usually have a common table, the allowance goes much further than when one person has to provide herself with all the necessaries of life.

The latest records from the hospital at Intombi, outside Ladysmith, show that 600 men died from disease during the siege.

Mr. Frederick Treves, F.R.C.S., consulting surgeon with the forces, in a letter to the *British Medical Journal* from Spearman's Camp, on the Tugela, February 7th, 1900, writes:—"The wounded from the battle of Spion Kop, on January 24th, presented a very large proportion of shell and shrapnell injuries. In spite of every possible care, the shell wounds, almost without exception, have done badly. We had over thirty deaths within the week after the battle, and these were nearly all cases of shell injury."

The saddest reports come from Mafeking:—"Among the children in the women's laager typhoid and malaria have broken out. Dysentery and diphtheria, through the want of good and suitable food, are rife among the garrison. Many who fought long and gallantly for the honour of the British flag will not live to reap the glory which will accrue from their action. Such luxuries as we had are exhausted, or have been commandeered for the hospitals, which are full to overflowing. The children's graveyard close to the women's laager grows week by week, as the young lives are cut short prematurely by shell or fever.

Public feeling in Canada is very strong on the refusal of the War Office to allow the surgeons and nurses of the Dominion to go to the front, and we are likely to hear more of it. In some quarters it is thought that the Department, in its desire to administer another snub to the Volunteer contingents, has put into force an ancient regulation, now hopelessly out of date, prohibiting the employment of foreign and colonial surgeons in our wars, and a formal request is likely to be made to the Imperial Government by the Canadian authorities to interpret the Army regulations on the subject in a more liberal spirit. The medical men of Canada and other British possessions are as well qualified to-day as members of our own College of Surgeons; in fact, many of them hold the highest English degrees, consequently this refusal comes with a very bad grace, when the Colonies are doing so much for the mother-country.

We are glad the *Church Weekly* has a word to say in support of the Cape colonial nurses taking their share of nursing the sick and wounded. It says:—

"It would appear from recent accounts that there was no necessity for Mr. Treves and his two nurses.

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