

having to cope in December last with the needs of eight hundred sick and wounded soldiers lying in the hospitals at Frere, seeing that in South Africa, and especially in Cape Colony, there were hundreds of fully-trained nurses out of employment, and eager and willing to share in the duties and hardships connected with military hospital work. Nearly all these colonial nurses have received the full regulation training, and hold certificates taken in the chief British hospitals. At present their lot is a peculiarly hard one, for they not only find themselves unattached to the Army Nursing Service in South Africa, but they see the services of nurses from other British colonies, and even from the United States, preferred to their own. Moreover, very many of the nurses in South Africa have of late had to face great privation, and have found themselves almost destitute, as the wealthy families amongst whom they formerly had their private practice, left Cape Colony, Natal, &c., soon after the war broke out."

In addition to having been trained in British hospitals the nurses of South Africa have some special qualifications for being taken on the nursing staff of the British army. For example, they are women having strong colonial sympathies and an intimate acquaintance with colonial ways, and the vagaries of the Kaffir and other natives who constitute the domestic staffs of the South African hospitals. They are used to the climate, and, therefore, not liable to contract climatic diseases, and they possess a special knowledge of South African malaria, and other local complaints. The experience most of them have had in mining hospitals and in the rough-and-ready life on the veldt enables them to easily put up with the unavoidable inconveniences of camp and field hospital life.

"Notwithstanding all these considerations, however, nearly all the applications of the South African trained nurses for appointments on the Army Nursing Staff met at first with refusal on the part of the military authorities. The nurses themselves do not wish to supersede those belonging to the various British nursing corps, or other from the colonies, but only to share in their unselfish labours. They certainly have the prior right to use their skill for the benefit of their own countrymen.

"In the face, then, of the great increase in the number of sick and wounded, it is to be hoped that the military authorities at the Cape will see their way to avail themselves more than they have hitherto done of the services of these trained South African nurses on their nursing staff."

It is stated that, as the colonial nurses are not so amenable to discipline as the home trained nurse, they are being deputed to duty on the transports which convey the invalid soldiers to England from the Cape.

On leaving New York for England, Mrs. Adair stated that her mission to the United States had resulted in a large sum being collected for the hospital ship *Maine*.

Aid to the Sick and Wounded in the South African War.

At the request of the Central British Red Cross Committee the St. John Ambulance Association has undertaken the organization of working-parties and the collection and forwarding of suitable articles of clothing, &c., for the sick and wounded in the South African war.

In view of the near approach of the cold weather in South Africa the working parties, who have been so generously engaged in contributing clothing and other comforts for the sick and wounded, are now recommended by the Central British Red Cross Committee to direct their efforts to the provision of the following articles:—

Cardigan jackets (knitted waistcoats with sleeves).—The most useful sizes are 36, 38, 40, and 42 inches chest measurement; length from back of neck 22 and 23 inches; sleeves 20 to 22 inches. The chest measurement should be marked in red worsted in the back of the neck.

Jerseys ("sweaters").—The most useful sizes are 38, 40, and 42 inches chest measurement; length from back of neck 26 to 28 inches; sleeves 21 to 23 inches. The chest measurement should be marked in red worsted at the back of the neck.

Warm under-vests.—To be made of flannel shorter and slightly smaller than the sweaters; they should have an opening, made to button, extending 10 inches down the front. Chest measurement to be marked in red at the back of the neck.

Woollen socks and stockings.—The most useful sizes are 10, 10½, 11 and 11½ inches from the toe to the heel. They should be worked to the pattern of ordinary stockings and socks, and the sizes should be distinguished as under: 10 inches by a knitted band of red at the top of the leg 1 inch wide; 10½ inches by a similar band of blue, 11 inches by a similar band of white, and 11½ inches by a similar band of yellow. Pairs should be strongly tacked together.

Flannel shirts (Flannelette shirts would also be acceptable).—Sizes, 14½, 15, 15½, 16 and 16½ inches neck measurement, the most useful sizes being 15, 15½, and 16. These should be made to the pattern of a man's ordinary shirt, and should have the size boldly marked inside the back of the collar in red worsted.

Pyjama sleeping suits.—These should be made of flannel, flannel and cotton mixture, or flannelette. The most useful sizes are: Chest, 40 to 45 inches; length of jacket from back of neck, 28 and 30 inches; length of leg outside, 40 and 43 inches; inside, 28 and 30. These sizes should be distinguished by the chest measurement being worked in a distinct colour of worsted inside the back of the collar.

Long flannel night-shirts, ordinary patterns and sizes, would also be useful.

Dressing-gowns.—These should be made of warm wool material, the most useful sizes being 40, 42, and 44 chest measurement, and the length from the back of the neck from 55 to 58 inches. The sizes should be distinguished by the chest measurement and length being worked in red worsted inside the back of the neck, thus: $\frac{40}{55}$

Mufflers.—These should be knitted about 6 inches wide and 45 inches long, or made of woollen or silk material in squares of about a yard.

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