

**Army Nursing Notes.**

A committee of Canadian ladies, of which the Princess Louise is President, has been formed for the purpose of providing necessaries and comforts for the Canadian contingents in South Africa. Lord Strathcona is treasurer of the fund. Canadian ladies and gentlemen residing in the United Kingdom wishing to show their interest in the matter and desiring to be informed of what has been done, are invited to communicate with the honorary secretary, Mr. J. G. Colmer, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W., by whom subscriptions and parcels of gifts will be gratefully received.

We are glad to learn from a correspondent at the Cape that at last the colonial nurses are being employed to nurse the sick and wounded. Ten have been sent to Natal, four to Orange River, and many others on our transports and into the hospitals. Better late than never.

Referring to Nursing Sisters, Mr. Clinton Dent writes to the *British Medical Journal* from the Mooi River General Hospital, South Africa:—"At the time of my visit, there were only nine Nursing Sisters at work in the Hospital. Nursing, in the sense it is ordinarily understood, was, therefore, practically out of the question. A general superintendence was really all that the Sisters could provide—valuable, beyond question, but still of necessity so limited that its value was reduced to the smallest compass. If the principle is recognised of having nurses in hospitals at all, a sufficient number should be provided to enable real nursing to be carried out." (So says the NURSING RECORD.—ED.) "It was in contemplation to erect immediately marquees for 200 more patients, in anticipation of the relief of Ladysmith, making some 800 beds in all. But it seemed by no means certain that additional nurses would be forthcoming."

Mr. Fisher Unwin will publish, at an early date, a volume bearing the title "Nursing Tommy Atkins in Natal," by the Lady Sykes. This lady—so well known to the public owing to her financial *cause célèbre*—has recently returned from a trip to South Africa. Poor Tommy—and poor Nursing! If they are to be the subject of the enterprising society woman's pen, we shall suffer *ad nauseam* from the subject for months to come, when the war is over and these ladies follow the baggage waggon home again.

Still they come! According to the *African*

*Review*, "the Hon. Mrs. Goldmann, wife of Mr. S. C. Goldmann, has entered the Garrison Hospital at Maritzburg as nurse. During the war this spirited lady, who is contributing to several English journals, is stated by the authorities to have rendered great service in tending the wounded."

After the experience they have gained in nursing sick officers in South Africa, no doubt society dames will be prepared to "take a turn" in the understaffed Workhouse Wards in the parishes in which they reside at home. We can assure them there are thousands of poor suffering old people and helpless children in the Unions of this England of ours, whose ailments are quite as heartrending as those of handsome young men at the front. Did we hear a sniff?

Sister Child writes from Kimberley:—

*March 1st.*—Lord Roberts entered Kimberley. After his reception at the Town Hall was over, the beloved Commander paid a visit to this hospital, and came round the wards with Lord Methuen and staff. He spoke so kindly to each man, and my only regret was that I had just lost sixteen of his men; however, it brightened them all to hear his voice, for he has a most gracious manner and a face shining with kindness and sympathy. I have paid visits to those of our sick soldiers removed to the hospitals provided for them in the town schools, Drill Hall, and Christian Brothers' Institute, their chief regret is being left behind, as "they will never be able to pick up with the column," this said in a tone of voice which implies doctors and nurses are poor things, not to be able to supply perfect new limbs in place of those damaged. Of course we could not really "keep" Christmas day, but we draped the doors with the "Union Jack," and relieved the monotony with branches of pepper trees, which reminded me of those silvery linings to the streets of Athens.

*March 6th.*—On my second visit to the schools I found them converted into veritable military hospitals, and many comforts well supplied. All the men have slippers and very nice real flannel suits, so that in the day time they can dispense with blankets. They have also been provided with bed-tables, or open lockers, and other nice gifts I noticed were the net covers for feeders of milk. The men with bullet wounds all say they feel a change of weather acutely, and wish to know how long they will remain "natural barometers." We are longing to hear of the relief of Mafeking. Numbers of soldiers are *passing through* Kimberley, may be on the way to the brave little town.

*March 10th.*—Our hospital is full again of sick soldiers, mostly medical cases. The men have suffered terribly since Paardeberg. I have seven of the City Imperial Volunteers, and how warmly they are welcomed by the regulars, one Horse Guard, who is very ill with enteric, begged me to let the "volunteer" be at his end of the ward, it is indeed good to see this fine *esprit des soldats* if only we had more of it in the nursing profession!! Kimberley is just now like a huge camping junction, soldiers passing all day long to and from the front and base, *mais les affaires s'arrangent.*"

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)