

—"There is great and urgent need of towels, soap, note-paper, indelible pencils, knitted caps, warm socks, and, above everything, pipes and tobacco."

"THE WOMEN'S BURDEN."

They are slipping down the Channel, they are working
down the Bay,
The keels that bears the mothers' sons, for whom the
mothers pray.
From Solent and from Humber, from Mersey, Thames,
and Clyde,
The mothers' sons of England go out on every tide.

By all the ocean gateways, where the light-capped
headlands tower,
The ships that take the mothers' sons are sighted
every hour.
They are ploughing through the Forties, they are
beating round the Horn,
They are gliding over glassy seas to greet the golden
morn.

And some are for the fighting-line, some go to wield
the pen,
Within the picquets others trade, but all are fighting
men:
Wearing every badge of service—wearing none, its
much the same—
Even though they never know it, they are playing
England's game.

And while the sons go trooping forth, to find, to take,
to share
The White Man's Burden that we know—have they no
load to bear
Who choke their sobs, and say "farewells," and bide
at home and long,
Who bore the sons of England—the mothers of the
strong?

They bore with pain and travail, they nursed upon
their knees
The men who rule in many lands, the lords of all the
seas,
They have learned to bear their partings—when the
time has come they know,
For last-born follows first-born on the way they have
to go.

What of the mothers' burden, what of their sacrifice?
Can ye buy their love for a bauble, can ye pay their
tears with a price?
Forasmuch as the White Man's Burden is borne by the
sons they bare,
Unto them let it be counted, they carry their own full
share.

* * * *

Well-loved and strong-souled singer, whose voice
sounds from afar,
To the last, least, loneliest island where the burden-
bearers are:
Who sang the song of the swaddled lives beyond the
purdah's hem,
Master, these are thy kindred—hast thou no words for
them?

E. D. in the *Pioneer*.

The American Nursing World.

A Bill to Provide for the Employment of Women
Nurses in Military Hospitals of the Army.

ON January 19th, Mr. Hull introduced the following Bill, the third, into the House of Representatives, and it was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs:—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this Act, women nurses, in the proportion of not more than ten per centum of the number of sick and wounded in general and post hospitals of 50 beds and upwards, shall be employed by and constitute the women's nursing service of the medical department of the army.

Section 2.—That there shall be a superintendent of women nurses in the army, who shall be a woman graduated from a general hospital training school for nurses having a course of instruction lasting not less than two years and who shall be appointed by the Secretary of War. That the salary of the superintendent of nurses shall be two thousand dollars per annum.

Section 3.—That the nurses in the service shall be graduated from general hospital training schools having courses of instruction lasting not less than two years; that they shall be appointed by the surgeon-general of the army under such regulations as may be approved by the Secretary of War; that they shall receive 40 dollars a month when on duty within the limits of the United States, and 50 dollars a month when on duty outside of the limits of the United States.

That a chief nurse may be appointed for every hospital where there are five or more nurses on duty; that the salary of a chief nurse shall be 75 dollars a month within the limits of the United States, and 85 dollars a month outside of the United States.

That in addition to the salaries above mentioned, the superintendent of nurses and each nurse in the women's nursing service shall be entitled to transportation and necessary expenses when travelling under proper orders: *And provided further,* That nurses and chief nurses shall be entitled to quarters, subsistence, laundry for uniforms, medical attendance, nursing, and medicines during illness, and that they may be granted such leaves of absence without loss of pay as the Secretary of War may authorize.

We learn that a fourth Bill, suggesting a few minor alterations, has been framed—but which will not materially alter the *principles* of the Bill—which has the support of a very large majority of the trained nurses in the United States, who are signing petitions in its favour.

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