

### Army Nursing Notes.

PRINCESS LOUISE, Duchess of Argyll, has been pleased to contribute £50 to the Scottish National Red Cross Hospital, to name a bed the "Princess Louise Bed." Her Royal Highness also sends £5, which has been collected by poor people in the county of Antrim, to name the "County Antrim Bed"; they wish it to be occupied by any Irish soldier sent to the hospital.

The first section of the Scottish Red Cross Hospital, which has been provided by the St. Andrews Ambulance Association, sailed for South Africa on Saturday in the *Pembroke Castle*, and it will be utilised as a base hospital or a hospital on the lines of communication. Miss Shannon, late Night Superintendent at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, has been appointed Superintendent, and Nurses Margaret B. Alexander, Geraldine Trout, Ritchie Thomson, Annie L. Storie, Murdoch, and Mary Forbes, as Nursing Sisters.

The future of our disabled soldiers is a subject to which the public is now keenly alive, and we believe that the daily press is right in its assumption that the public of to-day will never tolerate the repetition of spectacles, common enough years ago, of soldiers disabled by injuries they had received in fighting the battles of their country, perambulating the streets with barrel organs or displaying illustrated placards telling of battles in which they had lost arms or legs, or the precious gift of eyesight. There is no doubt that it is the duty of the nation to make adequate provision for its wounded soldiers, and it is one which it will not hesitate to undertake.

The advantage of a fund, available for the assistance of the wounded, which is untrammelled by red tape, is apparent. The principal medical officer at Ladysmith has sent an urgent message by cable to our spirited contemporary the *Daily Mail*, which conceived and organized the A. M. B. Relief Corps, asking for £200 for pressing requirements. While recognizing that it is the duty of the Government to make adequate provision, and that the Red Cross Society is supposedly meeting all the requirements of the land hospitals, the £200 was at once transmitted by telegraph.

A request has also been received from the P. M. O. at Durban for 1,000 towels, small sponges, hair brushes, combs, and 100 deck chairs. Our contemporary is despatching these

desiderata this week, and says:—"The convenience, but not, perhaps, the necessity, of the deck chairs, is apparent. Every other article, to our mind, comes under the head of 'necessities.'" In our view, the deck chairs come also into the latter category, for, on board ship, it is of the utmost benefit for convalescents to get up on deck, and there is absolutely no provision for seats of any kind on any ship by which we have travelled, each passenger providing his own chair. If, therefore, deck chairs are not provided for invalid soldiers, they must perforce remain below.

We are glad to note also that the *Daily Mail* advocates the re-organization of the Army Medical Service at the conclusion of the war. The breakdown of the present administration is, it believes, due rather to the system than to its administrator, but it adds:—"These things are hard facts which must be remembered when the system has to be re-organized, as it must, after this war is over."

One point as to re-organization in which we, as nurses, are specially interested, is the selection of nurses for active service. We have many times drawn attention to the fact that, with one exception, the Superintendents of our Nurse Training Schools have been purposely excluded from any part in the selection of nurses, with the result that the sick soldier, and the nation, have been deprived of their valuable expert services, and have suffered in consequence, for already many instances of the unsuitability of nurses selected have been placed before us, and no doubt when the war is over, many more will be forthcoming. It is unquestionable that, but for the jealousy in high places, which has prevented Matrons from taking their proper position, their expert knowledge would have been available, and of the very greatest benefit in the selection of nurses.

Writing on "civilian aid," from Naauwpoort, Sir William Thompson remarks, in the *British Medical Journal*:—"What is obvious is, first, that the R. A. M. C. is entirely under-manned for any unusual demand upon it; that it is deficient in the number of surgeons, orderlies, and nurses; and that, some time in future, when the experiences of this war come to be weighed, a new and better scheme must be adopted. More nurses are wanted at the base hospitals; their number at present is inadequate. And when this part of some future scheme comes to be considered, it will be necessary to see that no amateur nurses are permitted to join—even in an emergency."

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