

every one of her colleagues during that trying period has received a present from Lady White marked, "Ladysmith Siege, Nov. 2, 1899, to Feb. 28, 1900." She adds:—"The sad time we were passing then in Intombi Camp was made brighter on Christmas Day, when General White sent each Sister a present of good things, including a bottle of port, which cheered our hearts and renewed our failing strength for many days."

Royal Free nurses will be glad to learn that Mrs. Ludlow, a former Matron of the Hospital, who has been acting as a Superintendent Sister all through the siege of Ladysmith, is now on her way home. Major Ludlow, whose admirable work in connection with the commissariat has been much eulogised, succumbed to enteric fever when the siege was over, and his condition for some time caused great anxiety. Happily, he has now sufficiently recovered to be invalided home. Mrs. Ludlow will have much sympathy in the anxious time she has passed through, her husband's illness coming, as it did, at the end of the hardships and trials of the siege, when he was run down and debilitated, must have caused her great anxiety.

Mr. Treves has brought down torrents of wrath upon himself by his outspoken remarks at the Reform Club banquet, on the "Plague of Women." He, however, makes it quite clear that it is neither the professional nurse, nor the amateur, who has rendered valuable help in many ways, to whose presence he objects at the Cape. His contempt is reserved for those frivolous Society women, who did not go out with the intention of working, and whose behaviour has brought such discredit upon the Empire.

Of these ladies Mr. Treves said, in an interview with a contemporary:—

"The hotels of Capetown (I will say nothing of Durban) were crammed with these people in the enjoyment of what to them was a picnic on a large scale. The Mount Nelson Hotel was packed with them, and if a sick or wounded officer came down from the front in search of accommodation he had not the slightest chance of getting into a decent hotel. These ladies had not the faintest pretext for being in South Africa beyond their own desire to make the campaign a means of obtaining new pleasures and excitements."

We are all aware that the nurses, with few exceptions, have done admirable work, that even better might have been done, had the selection of nurses been placed in professional hands, is undoubted, for the highest type of nurses appreciate professional control, and the fact that they have not been under a professional head at the

Cape, as is the case in the Army, and with the medical service, is a serious mistake; but, nevertheless, their work has, for the most part, been good, and it is well that it should be made quite plain that the discreditable behaviour of loose Society women in no way is connected with the nursing world.

Mr. Treves is not alone in his opinions, for Mr. Fletcher Robinson says, in the *Express*:—

"They have come out for many and various reasons these fair creatures who dress so perfectly, and whose boxes overflow from their bedrooms into every corridor and passage. Some came hurrying from England to write letters for the wounded, others to read to them, others again to act as nurses. I greatly fear that the comforts of the Mount Nelson rather interfere with their excellent intentions. The work of a hospital nurse is hard, dysentery and enteric fever are not dainty diseases. Moreover, when I visited Woodstock Hospital, where the privates lay in hundreds, I found but one nurse to seventy beds, and not a sign of a fashionable skirt in the place. But then the Wynberg and Portland hospitals, which are so prettily situated and hold the officers, are, as I am informed, almost overdone by the kind attention of amateurs."

"As for the ladies, it would take an abler and more knowing pen than mine to describe the beauty of their toilettes. Indeed, the daily dinner (at the Mount Nelson Hotel) might be compared to the celebrated ball at Brussels before the battle of Waterloo; only in this case the fighting is merrily going forward."

Private Alexander, of the 1st Suffolk Regiment, speaks appreciatively of the care which he received from the Boers. He says:—

"I wish to state that the Boers showed us the greatest kindness. They took us away in a comfortable ambulance, and we were attended by German doctors and nursing sisters. Everything possible was done, so far as circumstances permitted, to relieve our sufferings. A bullet had struck me in the left elbow, shattering the bone, so that amputation was necessary. I also lost the third finger of my right hand through a shell. They took the wounded to Colesberg Hospital, and after that they were sent to Pretoria. I was too ill to be moved, but, considering my serious wounds and shock, I made rapid progress, for which I am indebted to the skill of the Boer doctors and zeal of the nurses. I was then sent to Springfontein, where the fever took me. Again they nursed me back to life and hope."

The *Daily Mail* correspondent at Cape Town says:—

"The hard and protracted campaign is telling severely on war correspondents.

"At least half a dozen are recuperating here, three or four are returning by the next few boats, broken by disease and physical collapse, while several others are wavering between home and the front, being practically exhausted and tired out by the long strain arising from exposure and a diet of bully beef and sand."

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