

obstacles he had to overcome. He now has a staff of medical men and nurses adequate to cope with the severity of the epidemic of typhoid fever among the prisoners, the seeds of which they unfortunately brought with them from the trenches of Paardeberg. At last, thanks to Dr. Carré's direction, and the skilful exertions of his staff, it is abating, and another threatened danger has been happily averted.

As for the nurses at the Palace Hospital, they are an exceptional set of interesting and clever women. Sister Morris has had the experience of going through the siege of Kimberley. She gives graphic accounts of how the shells from the Boer guns came whizzing through the air and through the hospital buildings, bursting near, but never, by God's providence, within the walls, dedicated to the sick and suffering."

"Another lady who is helping in the good cause at the Palace Hospital, and who is responsible for much of the organization, is Miss Mary Kingsley, whose name, quite apart from her connection with the famous Charles Kingsley, is well known as an author, a traveller, and a student of life and its conditions in West Africa."

Miss Kingsley is known to our readers by the interest she has shown in the Colonial Nursing Association and the Nursing of the Sick at Sea.

The following is an extract from the letter of an Army Nurse in South Africa:—

"The 'lady amateur' crops up everywhere when military excitement is going on. Lord Kitchener himself took most stringent measures to keep her out of the Soudan; but she has succeeded beyond all precedent in this South African campaign. The 'society ladies' who shipped as nurses—many of them thus escaped paying their own passages—all wear silk gowns and the flimsiest caps and aprons, and look like the 'nurses' of fancy fairs.

"If amateurs came as 'additional' nurses they could play around brow-smoothing, and not do much harm; but in many instances the War Office authorises only a certain number of nurses in hospitals and transports. When society women, with no technical training, take these posts, they fill posts which ought to be filled by certificated nurses. Real nurses, as a consequence, are too few in number and terribly over-worked by doing their own and the amateurs' duties.

"No end of trouble has been caused by these masquerade nurses to doctors, nurses, and poor, sick, wounded Tommies. They get in everybody's way, and have no intention of working. Their idea is to take posts of authority, and 'boss' the trained nurses who have borne the heat and burden of many years in hospital.

"We don't grudge them going round the wards in fancy dress, distributing flowers, and petting Tommy Atkins. They can do this picturesquely enough. But interference with the nursing of the sick soldier is too serious a matter. Many of these amateurs were actually sent to the front. 'Somebody' in authority had the courage to send several of them back to the headquarters responsible for their appointment. Social influence has no right to count when it comes to war nursing. It would astonish English people did they know how many of these 'nurses,' without one day's hospital training in their lives, are trying their

'prentice hands on Tommy sick. And if ever patients called for good nursing it is these poor fellows from the front—with terribly shattered wounds, enteric, and dysentery.

"I notice that amateur surgeons and physicians have not been appointed. It would never occur to the authorities to select a surgical staff from untrained society men. A thrill of indignation would go through Great Britain were it announced that the Earl of —, had been put in charge of the operating theatre of a base hospital. I cannot see why equal indignation should not be aroused by the fact of putting absolutely ignorant, untrained, society folk in charge of typhoids, and gunshot wounds. Sensible, practical colonials think the one step just about as bad as the other.

"Meanwhile hundreds of South African highly-trained nurses are out of employment owing to the war. Nurses from Kimberley and Johannesburg and Cape Town sit with idle hands, many almost destitute, while the amateur nurses take salaried positions, some of them give their services; others have Government posts and receive Government pay. Very often they spend it in Cologne and cushions for the patients; but that does not make it easier for the trained certificated colonial nurse, who has 'got no work to do.'

"There are many ways in which the leisured society woman may help the sick soldier; but the sooner she realises that her province does not lie in the wards of a military hospital the better."

The complaint of lady nurses being rather in the way is no new one, says *Truth*. "Miss Nightingale herself was an admirable nurse and organiser. But I was at Constantinople soon after the Crimean War, and much the same thing was said of a good many of her lady nurses as is now said of the lady amateurs in South Africa. They would not do the messy work, and only fluttered about as ministering angels, gushing and flirtatious, leaving the real hospital work to be done by professionals."

Pro Patria.

ANOTHER name has, we regret to say, been added to the roll of those nurses who have died in the performance of their duty in South Africa. Miss Caroline Fishwick (Sister Theresa, of the Church Extension Association) has died from dysentery, contracted while nursing in the camp hospital at Intombi. With three other members of her community, she sailed for Natal last November. On landing, they placed their services at the disposal of the military authorities, and have since then been employed nursing the sick and wounded at Intombi. Miss Fishwick was trained at the London Hospital, and has held the positions of Night Superintendent at the General Hospital, Bristol, and of Matron at the Hospital, Berkeley, and of the Children's Convalescent Home, Weston-Super-Mare.

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