

of Imperial officers and Colonial troops who have made Mafeking a household word in English ears. The name has had of late years a sinister sound; it recalled a blunder and a crime. These men, by their gallant conduct, had purged it of all its ill-fame, and it now ranks with Chitral and Lucknow and Jellallabad as a name at which English hearts will thrill for many a long year. It has been proved once again that the breed of Englishmen is what it used to be in its traditional tenacity, its stubborn pluck, and its refusal to know when it was beaten, and this deed of arms had been endeared to us by that which is rarer even in Englishmen, an ideal touch given to it by the man who had been its very life and soul; in whom intelligence and skill and imagination have worked level with his courage, and whose face has in it the light which laughs in the eyes of those who, when summoned to great issues, are as happy as a lover, and attired with sudden brightness. Surely, this is the happy warrior whom every man in arms would wish to be. Such a moment of emotion is not to be wasted in the insolence of pride or the emptiness of shouting; it is indued with the power of moral purification if we would but use it. It should sweeten the passion and quell the heat and horror of the fight. Victory releases us from the cruelty of panic, and sets us free to be generous, kindly, warm-hearted, and forgiving; it prepares us for a better day. We are strong now with the dreadful responsibility of strength. How do we not pity those whom we so pitilessly outnumber, struggling for their independence so passionately loved and so fatally wrecked; upon whose little States we are bearing down with the entire weight of an enormous empire. We are Englishmen, and we begin to yearn for the peace and liberty which are the true English heritage. In our thankfulness to God let us pledge ourselves to remember that we are fighting with those who are yet to be our brothers in a common life; free men in a free commonwealth, with equal rights and equal honour. In that memory bitterness and anger and evil-speaking will die away, and we will pray together that never again shall Dutch and English in South Africa need the agony of another Mafeking."

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In response to an enquiry from a correspondent last week, we are expressing our views as to the propriety of Ward Sisters giving testimonials to nurses who have worked under them. We have no hesitation in saying that all such requests made to Sisters should at once be referred by them to their Matron. The Sister of a Ward has her own well-defined sphere of influence, her position and

authority in this is recognized and supported by her Matron. She should be equally scrupulous in respecting, and refraining from encroaching upon, the province of her superior officer, and this, without doubt, she does when she gives testimonials to nurses who have worked under her for a while, but of whose work as a whole she has no means of judging. We should have imagined that her own instinctive perceptions of the fitness of things would have made a Ward Sister recognize this, were we not aware that some Sisters become so tête-montée with the position in which they find themselves that they appear to think it has no limitations.

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ON Thursday, last week, an interesting ceremony took place at the Leicester Infirmary, when the Hon. Mrs. Murray Smith distributed the prizes and certificates gained by the probationers in the past twelve months. The Chairman said that, from notes supplied by Miss Rogers, the Lady Superintendent, he found that, during the past twelve months, there had been fifteen probationers and thirteen pupils entered, and of these twenty were still working at the Infirmary. Two Sisters who had received their training at the Infirmary had left; one, Miss Amy Knaggs, who left in 1894, had returned for temporary work, but in consequence of an urgent summons from the War Office she had to leave at a few days' notice, and was now nursing at the Military Hospital, Bloemfontein. Two other nurses had gone out with the Army Nursing Service Reserve. Another nurse went out to Mashonaland in December, and is now working in the hospital at Umtali. Trained nurses were never more valuable than at this moment. Since the war had broken out, the nurses who had gone out had been a blessing to the sick and wounded, and the whole community was indebted to them. The probationers receive instruction from the Lady Superintendent in practical nursing, and in elementary anatomy and physiology from Drs. Pope and Douglas, members of the medical staff.

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AN action has been brought in Queen's Bench Division by the widow and child of a poor man who died while under treatment at the Tolworth Joint Hospital, to recover damages from the District Board, on the ground that the man's death was caused by the negligence of one of the nurses in administering to him an overdose of opium. The Court gave judgment for the defendants, because the action was commenced after the period of six months—the limit of time in Section I. of the Public Authorities Protection Act, 1894.

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