

We are glad to learn that the Committee of the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital are requiring a three years' certificate of the nurses who are appointed to serve in it. This is a higher standard that has been insisted upon in all cases by the Army Nursing Reserve Committee, but it is a very necessary one.

Mr. Alfred Mosely, of Hadley Wood, Middlesex, has offered to equip and support a base hospital for our wounded at Cape Town. The War Office has gratefully accepted this generous offer.

When the New South Wales reinforcements for South Africa left Sydney, last week, they were accompanied by the trained nurses whose services have been accepted by the War Office. The troops were greeted in the streets with the utmost enthusiasm, and the nurses received a special ovation.

THE following notes, contributed by Sir William MacCormac to the *Lancet*, will be read with much interest.

Dec. 16th.—We arrived at Chieveley station about 1.30 p.m. yesterday. The cannonading had ceased about 1 o'clock. We found the station occupied by a hospital train under Major Brazier-Creagh, R.A.M.C., and everyone available helping to provide comforts for the freight it carried. There were 119 wounded in the train. They had been taken on board direct from the field, the train having run into the actual scene of action; in fact, it was ordered back by the principal medical officer, two shells having fallen close to it. The train carried the first results of the battle, and it was a very distressing sight. The wounded filled the carriages just as they had come from the field; every wound had been dressed, and had been dressed extremely well, under fire. A noticeable feature was the fact that very few of these dressings needed re-adjustment. Rifle splints, tourniquets, and other dressings had been adjusted carefully and deliberately, under circumstances of great difficulty and danger. There had been, we learned, a rush with the wounded to the train, which was rapidly filled and had then immediately steamed away, and when we saw it at Chieveley, four miles from the battle-field, the men were still under the excitement of the action. The wounded were cheerful and thankful for their treatment, many remarking that their chief anxiety was to get back soon enough to pay the Boers out. We saw the train start away for Estcourt (it was back again at Chieveley last night). On its arrival No. 4 Hospital was immediately unloaded and the erection of the tents began at once, before the weary officers and men of the Royal Army Medical

Corps had had a chance of sleep. The Stationary Hospital was yesterday, therefore, evacuated of sick at Frere, the whole equipment packed and brought to Chieveley, the tents re-erected, made ready for 100 wounded, and almost immediately they received about 50—all this being completed between 7 a.m. and midnight (strength, 4 officers and 37 men of the Royal Army Medical Corps).

Each of the three operating tents contained two operating tables, and as fast as a patient was taken off the table another took his place. Awaiting their turn, the wounded were lying outside in rows, which were being continually augmented by the civilian bearers coming in from the field. As each wounded man reached the hospital he was served with a hot cup of bovril, large cans of which were boiling outside the tents. The way in which the wounded had been dressed upon the field and each man ticketed with the nature of his wound, his name, and regiment, was excellent and was very useful for identification. This also saved much time at the field hospitals, because the seriously wounded could be at once discriminated from the more trivial cases. The latter went away at once to the tents and the former were re-dressed and operated upon when necessary by the four officers of the field hospitals and the three surgeons of each of the bearer companies. The praise of the regimental officers and men in respect to the way in which the Royal Army Medical Corps had done their duty under heavy fire was unanimous and unstinted. An officer of the Devons, wounded in the foot, told me that he managed to get to a hut near the bank of the river which was being used as a dressing station. The hut was continually under heavy fire, and he described the behaviour of the medical officers as magnificent.

The spectacle at the field hospitals was most painful. Ambulance waggon after waggon and stretcher squad after stretcher squad came in while I was there, pouring in the wounded, some of whom had died on the way and could, unfortunately, only be carried to the mortuary tents. The work performed in the operating tents was, in my opinion, of great efficiency, the operations being deliberately carried out with skill and despatch under the very trying circumstances of intense heat, hurry, and excitement all round. The Royal Army Medical Corps officers of these hospitals had started their surgical work about 3 a.m., and when I visited them in the evening they were still hard at it, having had no food meanwhile and no time for rest, and the work went on for hours afterwards. I gave advice in many cases where I was asked, and advised against operation in the case of a poor fellow with a fearful shell-wound of the hip. Altogether

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