

from a professional standpoint is the following statement in the *Irish Times*.

"H.R.H. Princess Christian, as President of the Red Cross Committee, asked Lady Cadogan to inspect the candidates before their election, and Her Excellency most kindly did so, submitting them to a thorough examination, with a view to satisfying the Committee that they were likely to render efficient service."

The selection and examination of nurses by unprofessional persons is a proceeding which it is difficult to comprehend. It is impossible to pretend that such persons could form any sufficient judgment of the technical abilities or experience of trained nurses. We have sincere admiration for Lady Cadogan, and feel certain that her action has been completely misconstrued by the *Irish Times*. Her reception of the nurses selected for active service was a kindly action, and we feel sure she would herself be the first to refuse the serious responsibility of "examining" professional nurses, for such a grave national service as that involved in army nursing in South Africa.

On the authority of Lord Wantage, V.C., Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, it is announced that a fund is being raised in the city of Glasgow to send out a hospital ship, entirely equipped, for the purpose of bringing sick and wounded soldiers back from South Africa to England.

Another hospital, of 100 beds, is, by the generosity of Lord Iveagh, who is bearing the whole cost, being equipped for service in South Africa. It consists of the fifth part of a base hospital, containing beds for 100 men and 4 officers. The doctors and nurses will all be Irish. The hospital will, therefore, no doubt, be a most cheerful place, for the brightness and vivacity of Irish men and women is proverbial.

All the society ladies seem engaged in looking after the welfare of our soldiers at the present time, and now a movement is on foot for "the equipment and maintenance of a perfect field hospital, ambulance, and stretcher-bearers for the Yeomanry." A Ladies' Committee is being formed for the furtherance of this scheme, which was initiated by Lady Chesham and Lady Curzon. We do not doubt that English women will respond to this appeal, and that the despatch of this hospital is a foregone conclusion.

Sir John Furley, who designed and equipped the Princess Christian Hospital train, which is

now on its way to the Cape, has booked passages for himself and Lady Furley in the *Carisbrook*, which leaves England to-day, January 6th.

Sir William MacCormac finds his services in great requisition at the present time. He was present at the battle of Colenso, and afterwards operated on several of the wounded, while he was consulted in many difficult cases. Sir William highly praised the perfect arrangements for the prompt and effective succour of the wounded at the front, and all along the lines of communication, and hoped this assurance would relieve the minds of anxious friends at home. The rapid manner in which the wounded were conveyed from the battlefield to the field hospital was, he states, remarkable, and reflected the greatest credit on Major Stewart-Wortley's Volunteer Ambulance Corps. He regarded the stretcher system which was employed on the occasion as incomparably superior to that of ambulance wagons, the painful jolting of which was avoided.

One very satisfactory point in connection with the present war is that, for the first time, something like an adequate number of nurses is being employed, and, moreover, they are taking their place, as they should do, at the front, and in the beleaguered towns of Kimberley and Ladysmith are rendering excellent service. This is as it should be. They are needed, for there are many serious cases of dysentery and enteric fever in the latter place.

A number of civil surgeons now assisting in military hospitals at home have been placed under orders for the Cape.

The French Red Cross Society has dispatched another fully equipped field hospital to South Africa. It has been fitted out as the result of private subscriptions. The Paris Afrikander Committee has reported that the subscriptions to date amount to thirty-three thousand pounds.

The members of the British colony resident in St. Petersburg have just collected the sum of 17,000 roubles for the British Red Cross Society, and the contribution has been sent to London.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, in addressing a Women's Suffrage meeting recently, based her remarks upon the article published in the *NURSING RECORD*, contrasting the pay received by medical men in South Africa with that given to the nurses, and said that she could not conceive any sufficient reason why an experienced nurse should receive a payment of only one-ninth or one-tenth of that allotted to a young surgeon, probably on the very threshold of his professional career.

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