

themselves on this important question and have it brought before the House.

Another contingent of Nursing Sisters is being despatched to the Cape to-day (Saturday). The more the better!

A statement is being circulated by the supporters of the present Army Nursing System that the reason so few nurses comparatively have been sent to South Africa, is because there has been a difficulty in procuring them. This is fudge. Hundred of trained nurses volunteered whose services, so far, have not been utilised; but, instead of being drafted off in hundreds, they have, for the past eight months, been dribbled into South Africa, by tens at a time, and when we read "that Princess Christian, always foremost in charitable work, has already applied to Ireland for recruits for her Army Nursing Reserve," we grasp at once the keynote to the footling inefficiency of the whole management. The maintenance of an efficient Army Nursing Service for the care of our soldiers is not a work of charity, and should, therefore, not be a field for social patronage. The defenders of the Empire have a right to the best medical and nursing service which can be rendered to them, and tax-payers must demand that our War Office shall provide it without delay.

The portrait of Miss Rose Shappere, which appears on this page, and for which we are indebted to the courtesy of the Editor of the *Jewish World*, is of special interest. Miss Shappere is of Jewish extraction, and few women of this nation have, so far, entered the nursing profession. The unaccustomed spectacle, also, of a Jewess wearing a Red Cross, proves how the

work of nursing breaks down religious barriers and prejudices. Miss Shappere was trained at the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, and when war in South Africa seemed imminent, proceeded there, and has nursed through the campaign.

Mrs. Richard Chamberlain's remarks in a contemporary, concerning the attitude of the military authorities to offers of help on the part of the public, must arouse attention. We have always most strongly insisted that the medical treatment of the patients is exclusively the province of the medical man, that the nursing must in the same way be exclusively in the hands of qualified nurses; but there are many ways in which the over-worked nurses could be relieved by sensible and helpful women, amongst these being the superintendence of the kitchens, the management of the laundry, in writing the letters of the patients, and in various other matters unconnected with treatment or nursing. We venture to say that, had a trained, efficient, sympathetic gentlewoman been in charge of the nursing department at the Cape, such willing services would, to the great advantage of the sick, have been gladly welcomed and organized.



MISS ROSE SHAPPERE.

South Africa will soon emulate Egypt in its list of plagues. To Mr. Treves' *bête-noir* "women," Mr. Burdett-Coutts has added, "the plagues of whitewash, and of blindness," we will add our quota by naming the plague of "party politics," in a question of life or death.

One Nursing Sister now at the front, who hails from the City, says the lack of nursing organization reminds her forcibly of the proverbial pudding at the "Cheshire Cheese," "where you pays your money, and goes as you please"!

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