

Army Nursing Notes.

Tuesday's *Gazette* contained a despatch from Lord Roberts, which brings his account of the operations in South Africa up to the end of November last. He calls the attention of the Secretary of State for War to a large number of officers (including the medical men), who have distinguished themselves at the front.

Under the heading "Nursing Sisters," he remarks:—

"I find it difficult within the limits of a short paragraph to give expression to the deep feeling of gratitude with which the Nursing Sisterhood has inspired all ranks serving in South Africa. The devotion, skill, courage and endurance displayed equally by the Army Nursing Service and by kindred organisations from the Colonies, have excited my admiration, and fully justified the opinion I have held for years as to the necessity and economy to the service of an ample nursing service for our Army. Some of the nurses who have been the most helpful have been lent to the Army Nursing Reserve by the great hospitals in the United Kingdom. I propose, in a later despatch, to bring to your notice the names of some of the most deserving."

The following religious Sisters are specially mentioned for meritorious services performed:—

NURSING STAFF, ST. MICHAEL'S HOME,
BLOEMFONTEIN.

Mother Superior Frances Vernon; Sisters Annie, Caroline, Ella, Flora Elizabeth, Frances Mary, Frances Louise, and Isabel; Misses Edith Cotton, Sophia Selene Jones, Ricarda Kennedy, and Elsa Orbanowska.

R.C. CONVENT, BLOEMFONTEIN.

Mother Superior Francis de Sales, Sisters Adrian, Alphonsus, Evangelista, Ignatius, Lucian, Magdalen, Mary Louisa, Melanie, Philomena, Raphael, St. Anne, St. Leopold, St. Louis, Stanislaus, Teresa.

The nursing profession all the world over will rejoice at the public expression of Lord Roberts' views on "the necessity and economy of an ample nursing service for our Army."

THE NURSE CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES
ARMY.

The committee to secure by Act of Congress the employment of graduate women nurses in the hospital service of the United States Army has made its final report, and adjourned *sine die*, and it is most satisfactory that the Bill which is advocated has secured the permanent employment of graduate nurses in the hospital service of the United States Army. Section 19 runs as follows:—

"SECTION 19. That the Nurse Corps (female) shall consist of one Superintendent, to be appointed by the Secretary of War, who shall be a graduate of a hospital training-school having a course of instruction of not less than two years, whose term of office may be terminated at his discretion, whose compensation shall be one thousand eight hundred dollars per annum, and of as many chief nurses, nurses, and reserve nurses as may be needed. Reserve nurses may be assigned to active duty when the emergency of the service demands, but shall receive no compensation except when on such duty; *Provided*, That all nurses in the Nurse Corps shall be appointed or removed by the Surgeon-General with the approval of the Secretary of War; that they shall be graduates of hospital training-schools, and shall have passed a satisfactory professional, moral, mental, and physical examination: *And Provided*, That the Superintendent and nurses shall receive transportation and necessary expenses when travelling under orders; that the pay and allowance of nurses and of reserve nurses when on active service shall be forty dollars per month when on duty in the United States, and fifty dollars per month when without the limits of the United States. They shall be entitled to quarters, subsistence, and medical attendance during illness, and they may be granted leaves of absence for thirty days, with pay, for each calendar year; and, when serving as chief nurses, their pay may be increased by authority of the Secretary of War, such increase not to exceed twenty-five dollars per month. Payments to the Nurse Corps shall be made by the Pay Department."

The *American Journal of Nursing* says:—

"SECTION 19 of the 'Army Reorganization Bill' has become a law so quietly and so unobtrusively that it is exceedingly difficult to tell by what means this change has been brought about.

"A year ago great numbers of the nursing profession were agitated over the subject of what was called the 'Army Bill.' The principal feature of this bill was, that trained women nurses should remain permanently in the army, in times of peace as well as war, that our soldiers might have the same degree of intelligent care and skilled nursing that is provided for the poorest of our people in the cities and large towns throughout the country. An important clause in the bill was that this Nursing Corps, having become permanent, should be under the supervision of a woman, who should be a trained nurse, qualified to direct this section of the medical department of the army, subject, of course, to the control of the Surgeon-General. The conditions which are specified in this bill, making the employment of women nurses permanent and providing that the woman at the head of the Nurse Corps shall be herself a trained nurse of ability, have been in practical operation for so long a time that the bill becomes a law without attracting much attention. Unquestionably the Military Committees of the House and the Senate have been influenced by the strong expressions of opinion which they have received through different channels from organizations of nurses throughout the country.

"From the beginning of the war until now there has been a tendency on the part of the women of the profession to assume no responsibility for any unfavourable criticisms that have been made upon the nurses in the army, forgetting, apparently, that all of these

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