

protection for her in outlying places. At Tunbridge Wells on Monday a man named Ernest Pring was charged with assaulting Miss Sarah Bryan, a hospital nurse. It was alleged that prisoner followed the prosecutrix into a lonely thoroughfare in the suburbs, placed his hand over her mouth, and threw her to the ground; and that when she fought him desperately he beat her about the head and face, causing serious injuries. On reaching the hospital she was in a state of collapse and covered with blood. Prisoner was sent for trial at the Assizes.

* * *

WE can only hope that if the crime is proved against him, he may be ordered a liberal corrective from the "cat." We own to entire lack of sympathy with primitive man who uses physical force to insult and injure defenceless women.

* * *

At the annual general meeting of contributors to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, held last week, it was reported that at the beginning of the year the nursing staff numbered 184; at the close of the year 195; the average for the year being 192. There were 670 applications for admission, against 578 in the previous year. Of the 54 nurses who left, one became matron of the Stanley Hospital, Liverpool; another matron of the Nursing Home in Swansea; one home superintendent of the Hull Royal Infirmary; five became head nurses elsewhere; five took to private nursing; eight returned to their homes; three went for training in the Maternity Hospital; two joined the Army Nursing Reserve; two left to be married; one died; twenty-four pupils returned to their respective institutions on the completion of a two years' course of training; and one left in ill-health. It was interesting to note that the matrons of thirty-nine Scottish institutions had all received their training in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

* * *

Two ladies were elected managers to represent the contributors for the ensuing year:—Miss E. S. Haldane, Cloanden, Anstruther; and Miss Agnes C. Imlach, 48 Queen Street—the last-mentioned taking the place of Mrs. Marcus Dods, who declined re-election on account of ill-health.

* * *

AN interesting booklet has been issued from the office of the *Aberdeen Journal* narrating the experiences of the first British woman who was released through the advance of Lord Robert's force into the Orange River Colony. The narrative is extracted from a diary carefully kept by the lady, who was for four and a half months in that centre of Boer activity, Jacobsdal, where, it will be remembered, the C.I.V. had their

baptism of fire. As the only British woman left in the village after war was declared, she devoted herself to the work of nursing, and had exceptional opportunities for observing what went on around her. Many of the wounded and prisoners after the battles of Belmont, Graspan, Modder River, and Magersfontein were brought to Jacobsdal.

* * *

THE authoress believes from her personal observation that the Boers as well as the British tried to carry on the war as humanely as possible. The kindness of the Boer women to the wounded British soldiers is more than once noted. Says the diarist: "It is amusing to see what an interest the Dutch girls take in the British wounded. They are causing quite a jealousy among their own people, who say they are not getting so much attention from the girls since the 'oude Rooineks' were brought into hospital. The women were full of compassion for the Highlanders who were brought in after Magersfontein. 'Poor things,' they said, 'they are so poor that they can't afford to buy trouse's.'"

* * *

THE death of another Nursing Sister, Dorothy Fletcher, is reported from Rustenburg, from enteric fever, which took place on December 29th. The daily lists of those suffering with this disease in South Africa are becoming appalling. One more chance of war.

* * *

THE American hospital ship *Maine*, flying the British and American flags, was berthed early on Sunday morning at the Empress Dock, Southampton, with patients on board numbering four officers and one hundred and thirty-eight rank and file. With the exception of thirty-four taken at Malta, the invalids were from China, and two cases were somewhat severe. All the patients were forwarded to Netley. The staff reported that no deaths had occurred on the voyage, and that everything had progressed most satisfactorily.

* * *

THIS will probably be the last voyage of the *Maine* under the auspices of the American Ladies' Committee. It is understood that in the event of the vessel passing out of the Committee's hands, she will be taken over by the Government, or will be restored to her owners, the Atlantic Transport Company.

* * *

SPEAKING at University College Colston Society dinner at Bristol on Tuesday night, Sir William Church said that the South African Hospitals Commission's Report was finished and signed, and now only awaited acceptance by the Queen in order to be made public.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)