

above hospital to stay there as her guests, pending orders for duty, an offer which was gladly accepted. She then relates: "Upon finding that our troops had orders to proceed up country immediately, we made every effort to be allowed to accompany them to the front. This we were told was impossible, as no nursing sisters can be accommodated in the field hospitals. So with very sad feelings we saw our countrymen entrain without us on December 3rd, and realised at that early date what served us in good stead later, viz., that we too were soldiers, to do as we were told, and go where we were sent. Later in the same day we received orders to proceed to Wynberg for duty in the large base hospital there called No. 1 General. We found our services were greatly needed here, the wounded from Graspan and Belmont, etc., having been brought down recently, and the number of sisters very small. I might here add that the total number of sisters sent from home at this early date was forty, while a year later, including ourselves and other colonials, we numbered 1,000." At No. 1 General the sisters found the work at times very heavy, dinner being often delayed until nine or ten p.m. This hospital received convoys of wounded after the battle of Magersfontein and Modder River, later the sisters formed part of the Nursing Staff of No. 3 General Hospital at Rondebosch. "Here," writes Miss Pope, "we arrived on Christmas Day, and remained almost six months, having at times very active service, sometimes covered with sand during a 'Cape scuth-easter,' and at others deluged with a fore-runner of the coming rainy season, and at all times in terror of scorpions and snakes as bed fellows."

In February some of the Canadian troops began to come down, and each new convoy was eagerly searched by the Canadian sisters for wearers of the maple leaf badge, and they deemed it a great privilege to find them their own special patients.

Later these sisters worked at Kroonstadt, and eventually were surprised and pleased to receive orders to proceed to Pretoria. These orders came from Lord Roberts direct, who, happening to hear that they hoped to see Pretoria before leaving the country, with characteristic kindness requested the P.M.O. to transfer them for duty there at once.

Miss Pope speaks appreciatively of the unflinching courtesy of Surgeon-General Wilson P.M.O. of the Army in South Africa, as well as of the

other medical officers with whom she served. Superintending Sister Browne of No. 3, and Superintending Sister Garrioch of No. 1 Wynberg were, she says, most kind and appreciative of the work of the contingent which she superintended. Of the members of this she writes: "Of my fellow-sisters, I have much pleasure in reporting: as good nurses, popular with their patients, untiring in their zeal, cheerfully bearing oftentimes great hardships. I feel I cannot say too much of them, and it is with deep regret I lose their pleasant and constant companionship."

One word as to Tommy Atkins we must quote: "We found 'Tommy Atkins' a very good patient and a fine fellow, always grateful, generally cheerful, bearing loss of limb, loss of health, and many minor discomforts with a fortitude that satisfied our best ideas of British pluck, while his consideration for the presence of 'the sister' was at times quite touching."

The Dominican Sisters at Salisbury, Rhodesia, who at present constitute the nursing staff of the local hospital, have resigned this position, and intend for the future to devote themselves to educational work.

A writer in the "New York Sun," says: "Upon each annual visit to New York I find something new to wonder about. This time the thing that impressed me most was the well-manicured hands of many of the negro women. The first day I was here I sat beside a young negro girl in the street car. She was as black as charcoal and homely, but her bad points were redeemed in a measure by her hands. She wore no gloves and her finger tips were exposed in all their shapeliness. Barring colour, there wasn't a pair of hands in that car that could match them for general comeliness. There was no ostentation in the display, so I concluded that she was not perfectly manicured for that occasion only, but that the tidiness was habitual with her. Being thus impressed with that one exhibition of neatness, I have made a study of other negro women that I have seen at close range and the proportion of them whose hands are well manicured was very large. Indeed, ragged finger nails have been the exception and I saw them only among women who were evidently kept grinding away constantly at hard manual labour. I have learned since that in the negro colonies there are coloured manicures whose customers are mostly of the same race, and I am assured that their patronage is heavy enough to insure them a very comfortable income."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)