

"My idea," said Miss Speed, "is that each Colony should have a volunteer corps of nurses of its own, affiliated to Q.A.I.M.N.S., and that when our men volunteer for active service abroad members of this corps should be told off for duty with them.

"I think that these nurses should be selected by a responsible committee in their own Colony, for, undoubtedly through want of organisation in this particular, women found their way and were accepted for work in South Africa who would never for a moment have been sent out by those that knew them at home. But I think also, in order to secure uniformity and *esprit de corps* in the Service, a certain number of vacancies in British military hospitals should be offered to members of these affiliated corps, so that they can go back to their Colonies in a few years and disseminate the knowledge they have gained amongst the members of their corps. It seems to me a good opportunity now, when the Service is being re-organised, and the nursing staff so largely increased, to apportion some of the vacancies to the various Colonies."

I assure Miss Speed that there are British nurses who take an interest in professional and public affairs, who realise the supreme importance of Imperial unity from both these aspects, and who appreciate and wish success to her patriotic aspiration to form a Volunteer Nursing Corps in New Zealand which shall be affiliated to our Imperial Military Nursing Service, and which would thus be in a position to render efficient aid to the Empire in time of war. May her desire soon be realised!

MARGARET BREAY.

"Don'ts."

TO THOSE TO WHOM IT MAY APPEAL.

By A COLONIAL SISTER.

The advice of *Punch* to those about to be married would apply with equal force to those nurses about to rush off to South Africa, only the "Don'ts" should be written with an extra big capital D. I have been there, and I know. Don't go at present because—

1. There are too many nurses there already. There are few or no hospital appointments vacant. There is little or no demand for well-trained private nurses.

2. Board and lodging are most expensive, and washing a serious item of expenditure.

3. The servant question is even more acute in South Africa than in England. Natives are most difficult to manage unless you can speak their language, and so be up to all their peculiar little ways. They have a nasty habit of going off without troubling to mention the matter, especially if there is illness in the house, when it appeals to them as an auspicious moment to decamp in a body,

leaving the nurse with the whole routine of domestic matters in her hands in addition to the nursing of the patient.

4. Remember, moreover, you will have little choice of patients; you will be called upon to nurse "all sorts and conditions of men" of many nationalities. A knowledge of languages is therefore very essential; you will find yourself somewhat useless unless you have the gift of tongues.

5. Don't go out to South Africa, as so many Britishers do, with the soul aflame with reforming zeal. Rather than attempt reform, summon common sense and adapt yourself, if your insular instinct will permit you, to your new surroundings.

6. Don't look upon "colonials" as savages or fools; they are neither one nor the other. They have a happy faculty of knowing what they want, and the best way of getting it. You may have descended from Olympus into their midst, but by that item of information they will not be impressed. Don't speak of your fellow Britishers beyond the seas as "those Colonials," and giggle at what may appear to you peculiar in their manners. When you have prospected the mere earth—as well as the Elysian fields—you will realise the futility of "side."

7. And if, in spite of warning, you insist upon shedding the light of your countenance upon an already radiant land, don't take with you trunks of useless impedimenta, as the duty and cost of transport are enormous. Active service is at an end, so ball-gowns, satin slippers, and *chiffons* generally will rank as trash. Picnics, riding parties, theatres, champagne lunches will soon be things of the past. If you want to make ends meet you must *work*—work every day and all day—and unless you can bring with you £300 in cash, a knowledge of domestic science, housekeeping and accounts, laundry work, cooking, sewing, dressmaking, and a whole floorful of things far too numerous to mention, you will not succeed in the Colonies. The animation of South Africa is not suspended until you arrive; the people are not homeless. Nursing Homes are as numerous as patients, the big hospitals are re-engaging their old nursing staffs, and it is not improbable that many trained nurses who have resigned the military nursing service and elected to remain in South Africa and "see it through," will be compelled to earn a living in many other branches of work as well as nursing. V. C.

Returning from the Front.

The following Nursing Sisters are on their way home from South Africa:—

In the *Dilwara*:—Sisters M. L. Potter, K. Ward, and E. F. Fisher. Due at Southampton October 21st.

In the *Salamis*:—Sisters E. C. R. Philips and H. S. Swaine. Due at Southampton October 21st.

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