

Women in War'; 'A Chat about Warships'; 'The Red Cross Flag—Diligence of Ladies Making Bandages, Contributions of the Lady Attendants at the Palace, Membership of Foreign Ladies, Writing Letters for Wounded Soldiers'—'Nursing at Sea'; 'Nursing Organisations'; 'Nursing on Land'; 'Hospital Ships, Doctors, and Crew.'

"It can be plainly seen from this list of contents what a deep interest the women of Japan are taking in the present crisis, and it is very interesting to note that many, if not all, of these papers have been written by Japanese women."

It is indeed interesting to try to realise the wonderful progress of the "sweet little Japs." A few years ago, and our idea of the women of this flowery land was that they were just beautiful bright flowers themselves; somehow we did not class them with the strenuous women workers of the West. But, see! A Linda Richards comes along, they are given education and responsibility, and what do we behold in the nursing world? Pupils so apt that, like their brothers in arms, they give cause for wonder and delight. We should not be surprised that, following in the progressive steps of their American friends—to whom they owe so much—the trained nurses of Japan will gain their legal status whilst their English allies are fighting step by step the octocean Juggernaut—Vested Interests—which has crushed down their professional hopes for so long.

Dr. Anita McGee has an interesting article in this month's *Trained Nurse*, relating the arrival and welcome given to the American nurses who have offered their services for active service in Japan. She says:—

"At last we have reached Japan, and the welcome we have received is alone worth the journey half-way around the world. Had we been princesses, the hurrahs of the crowds could not have been louder nor the bows deeper, while the warm friendship of the people, both high and low, has been proved in a hundred ways. Fortunately for our modesty, we well know that the ovations we have received are not intended for us personally, but are an expression of the universally-felt friendship of the Japanese for Americans, and of their deep appreciation of the present sympathy felt for them by our countrymen in this their hour of trial. We are constantly reminded of their debt of gratitude to the United States for opening their land to Western civilisation half a century ago, and, being a nation whose hearts are filled with kindness, the coming of American women to give their skilled personal help to the soldiers of the nation is deeply and universally appreciated."

After referring to their various visits to great officers of State hospitals, and other institutions, delegations and presents of all kinds in Yokohama and Tokio, she adds significantly: "Of our movements in future we know almost as little as we did at home, as the greatest secrecy is being maintained."

The following report of a discussion which recently took place at a meeting of the Kimberley Hospital Board throws some light on hospital management at this important centre:—

"The Chairman, Mr. C. E. Nind, said there was one question—an unpleasant question—which had cropped up. They would, perhaps, know that one of their Night Sisters was recently assaulted by one of the Kafir attendants, and the magistrate inflicted a penalty of one month's imprisonment. He (the Chairman) mentioned the matter at a meeting of the Finance Committee, who agreed on the point that it did not seem right that through the night there was not a white man on the premises. They had a policeman patrolling outside, but there was no one inside. The Finance Committee were therefore in favour of having a regular night porter, who would come on duty at, say, nine o'clock, and remain until seven o'clock next morning. His duty would be to go through the wards and report himself; he would, at any rate, always be on the premises in case of anything of the like happening again.

"Dr. Watkins: Do you think it necessary? He would be in the capacity of a private policeman.

"The Chairman: We think as it is such a big place we ought to have a man.

"Dr. Watkins pointed out that if there was a porter, and anything of a similar nature happened again, difficulty might be experienced in getting him, as he might be at another part of the building.

"The Chairman stated that the Kafir assaulted the nurse twice. He got her by the throat on one occasion.

"The Secretary said he had had a lot of trouble during the past month with drunken native attendants.

"After further discussion it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Oliver, to leave the matter in the hands of the Chairman to make the best arrangements, it to be understood that the porter was, if necessary, to take charge of any violent case."

It seems almost incredible that there should have been any necessity for such a discussion, or that anyone should be found to question the advisability of having a white man on duty at night where white women nurses are employed. The assaults on the nurse thus calmly discussed, and for which a magistrate in South Africa appears to consider a penalty of one month's imprisonment sufficient punishment, might very well have been with criminal intent, and that nurses should run such risks in a Government hospital is reprehensible in the highest degree. We hope the Chairman has made provision to prevent the repetition of such a scandal in the future.

It appears that the management of the Johannesburg Hospital, like that at Kimberley, might be improved. Recently the nurses have been robbed at their quarters to the value of £58 15s. 6d., for which amount they claimed compensation from the Board. When this matter was brought up by the Secretary, "it was agreed that the Board repudiate all liability, but that the House Committee be instructed to recompense the nurses in any way they consider suitable."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)