

Her fellow members on the R.N.S. will be glad to know that Miss L. S. Huggins has safely arrived at Robben Island and taken up her duties in the leper compound. All is different from expectations—yet Miss Huggins writes that she has the most interesting work, as she is in charge of the surgery, the operating theatre, and the observation room. The patients—mostly Hottentots, Malay, or Kaffir—have their wounds attended daily in the surgery or “dressing-room.” “Our patients,” writes Miss Huggins, “are a pitiable sight—they crawl into the room many of them without feet, or with limbs amputated below the knee; without hands—yet they help themselves and can tie knots in their “footlaps” with fingerless hands and the assistance of their teeth. They are usually very merry and irresponsible, and sing comic songs while awaiting their turn. . . . I was, soon after my arrival in Robben Island, very much bitten by mosquitoes, so I do not think I shall need to be inoculated with leprolin, for doubtless they had previously had a feed on the lepers, as they raised great nodules on my arms such as I have never seen before, though mosquito bitten in France and Ceylon. I wear long gloves at night, but have worked with bare arms in the day; others here they do not bite, but prefer the blood of an English woman”!

Thus cheerfully do our English nurses suffer risks and discomfort in pursuance of duty. Let us hope the fine old pioneering spirit will ever be ours.

THE ARMY NURSE CORPS, U.S.A.

Miss Jane A. Delano, R.N., has resigned the position of Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, U.S.A., an important post she has chosen to relinquish so that she may do voluntary work for the Red Cross. The *American Journal of Nursing* says: “The value of having at the head of the corps a person who is a leader in organisation life has been so demonstrated by Miss Delano’s service that in appointing her successor the Surgeon-General has felt it was necessary at this time to select a woman equally well known to the nurses of the country, and has selected Miss Isabel McIsaac, R.N. Her experience in hospital executive work and her personal touch with hundreds of nurses through her extensive travels as Inter-State Secretary of the American Nurses’ Association have made her the best-known woman available in the nursing ranks to carry forward this most important department of the medical service of the nation.”

Both these able and charming women are well known to members of the International Council of Nurses, and if anyone could minimise the loss

to Army nurses in America of so fine a superintendent as Miss Delano, who has made the dignity and well-being of the corps her first consideration during her term of office, it is the appointment to succeed her of Miss McIsaac, who is, without doubt, not only one of the finest administrators, but one of the most popular women in the American nursing world.

THE PASSING OF MISS CLARA BARTON.

A most notable personality has passed away by the death at the age of 91, of Miss Clara Barton, President of the American Red Cross Society (which owed its foundation to her energy) from 1882 until 1894. Perhaps the best description of her in the fewest words is that given by herself, when called upon for a speech at the first representative Congress of Women, held at Chicago during the World’s Fair, in 1893. Miss Barton, then an old lady, was asked to address the meeting, when, in her fascinating way, she deprecated her inability to make speeches, but asked the delegates present to tell their countrywomen how deeply interested she was in all their splendid work for humanity, saying, “Do not forget to tell them that Clara Barton has an international heart.”

It was during the American Civil War that Miss Barton first began her great life’s work by establishing a bureau in Washington to help the search for missing men, the graves of over 12,000 soldiers being identified. She also aided the sufferers in the Franco-German War. At the request of President McKinley she carried relief to Cuba during the Spanish-American War, and subsequently gained the honour of special mention in the Presidential message to Congress. Miss Barton has also been honoured by many Continental nations, including Germany, Turkey, Spain, and Russia.

REFLECTIONS.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR,

Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra head the list of patrons to the matinée in aid of the funds of the Great Northern Central Hospital, to be given at the Finsbury Park Empire on May 16th. Princess Louise and the Duke of Argyll have definitely promised to be present.

At the annual meeting of the governors of St. Peter’s Hospital, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, it was stated that Mr. F. A. Bevan had acted as treasurer for 46 years.

The King has sent a present of cast linen to the Chelsea Hospital for Women. Gifts of soft old linen are of the very greatest use in hospital work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)