

A HOSPITAL SHIP.

A correspondent of the *Times* gives an interesting account of the *Guildford Castle*, one of the hospital fleet now at Boulogne which has been equipped to meet the requirements of the Indian troops. There are four of such ships, two of the Castle Line and two of the P. & O., and yet two more are being equipped in India by contributions from Indian Princes and the different communities. In common with other ships of the hospital fleet, they are distinguished by the broad green band on a white surface with the Red Cross fore and aft.

There is provision on the *Guildford Castle* for 300 wounded men, and no pains have been spared to provide the most up-to-date appliances for the comfort and welfare of the patients. Beds fixed to the floor swing with the motion of the vessel, the operating room is completely equipped, and there is an X-ray installation. There are separate wards for native officers and for British officers in the Indian Army.

As soon as the Red Cross motor-car arrives at the quay the patient is made to feel that the most careful machinery is put in motion for his comfort. Directly the motor-car arrives the bed he has travelled in is laid gently on a stretcher, swung up to the deck by a smooth running crane, placed in the lift and lowered to the ward. The "lying-down" patient need not stir from the stretcher on which he receives first aid until he is lifted on to his bed in the ship, and to soften the ordeal of the descent by crane, the stretcher has been made wide enough to carry two. The Indian when he is in a tight place likes to have a *bhai-band* (brother or comrade)—a co-religionist for choice, by his side, and the writer of the article tells that a convoy of wounded arrived before he left the ship, and he saw the ascent to the deck of two great Sikhs. One who had a slight bullet wound in the finger held the other's hand.

Great care has been taken to respect caste observances. There is a Hindu kitchen on the port side, and a Mohammedan one on the starboard side. From the moment foodstuff, or cooking and eating utensils are bought they are kept in separate stores duly labelled. The right kind of tea urn is provided, the necessary *chapattie* girdle, the brass pestle and mortar for pounding the ingredients for curry powder; and the Hindu cook—generally a Brahmin—a caste whose touch cannot defile—brings the dish he has prepared into the ward and serves his co-religionists with his own hands.

The wash-house and lavatory are designed with the same care, the sanitary requisites being an exact replica of those which obtain in the East. It was the perfection of these more than anything else which moved a venerable Khan Bahadur to say in admiration, "All India should see this." Plenty of warm clothing—cardigans, jackets, shirts, underclothing, pyjamas are needed for the men, and it is hoped that patriotic organizations will send generous contributions. It is impossible that they should be too generous.

THE JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

NURSES' BRANCH.

We are officially informed that Miss Swift, Matron-in-Chief of the Nurses Department of the Joint War Committee of the Ambulance Department of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and the British Red Cross Society, has been invited to take a seat on the Committee.

Miss M. E. Davies, formerly Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and Principal Matron of No. 2 General Hospital, T.F.N.S., has been appointed Matron of the new King George Hospital, Waterloo Road, S.E. In addition to the Matron, the staff will consist of 3 Principal Sisters, 13 Senior Sisters, 52 Sisters, and 210 Staff Nurses. The staff will also include women orderlies, wardmaids, a Quarter Master, a Chef, and the kitchen staff.

The washing brassard worn by those proceeding on foreign service now bears the stamp of the Cross of the Order of St. John as well as the Red Cross.

The following nurses have been sent on active service from St. John's Gate:—

Hotel Notre Dame, Paramé.—Miss E. Donnelly.

To Lady Murray, Tréport near Dieppe.—Miss F. Jones.

Miss Bromley Martin's Party, Tréport.—Miss M. Banfield.

Anglo-American Hospital, Wimereux.—Miss H. McKinley, Matron; Miss L. Amy, Miss M. Boyce, Miss E. Murray, Miss G. Skinner, Miss E. Smedley, Miss M. Stokes, Miss D. Williams.

Church Army Hospital, Caen.—Miss McNeil and Miss I. Ralph.

The following have been supplied to Home Hospitals:—

Froyle Court, Alton.—Miss M. G. Cook.

Giffard's House, Roehampton.—Miss C. B. Davis.

V.A.D. Hospital, Southsea.—Miss M. A. Burke.

Abbot's Barton, Canterbury.—Miss M. T. O'Neil.

V.A.D. Hospital, Northwood.—Miss M. G. Haggis.

Stanley Hospital, Wakefield.—Miss M. G. Mitchell.

Newton Park, Bath.—Miss L. Thomas.

V.A.D. Hospital, Stroud.—Miss M. Gray.

V.A.D. Hospital, Boutham, Lincoln.—Miss H. C. Whitford.

The following nurses have been supplied to Military Auxiliary Hospitals through the Office of the British Red Cross Society:—

Gerrard's Cross Hospital (for Lady Ramsden).—

Miss M. Carpenter, Matron, and Miss A. J. White, Miss T. Dawson, Miss V. Stewart, Miss D. Williams, Miss Mackenzie.

Miss Harvey has left Cowes Hospital and been transferred to Highfield Hall, Southampton, to replace Miss K. Jones, who has joined the Territorial Force Nursing Service.

Miss M. Page is working temporarily as Night Superintendent at St. Mary's Hospital, pending her being assigned to duty abroad.

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