

## OUR COLLEAGUES FROM THE FLOWERY KINGDOM.

The members of the Japan Red Cross Relief Corps to Great Britain had the honour of being received by Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House, on Friday last. The unit included Dr. Jiro Susuki (Chief Surgeon), Dr. Tsuneyoshi Oshima, Miss Yao Yamamoto (1st Head Nurse), Miss S. Kiyooka (2nd Head Nurse), Mr. M. Kuwabara (business manager), Mr. N. Otsuka (interpreter), and the 15 nurses, all of whom were included in the picture of the contingent which we published last week. Mr. Henry Bonar, on behalf of the War Office, was in charge of the unit; and the Hon. Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Red Cross Society, and other officials were present. The members of the Corps were presented to Her Majesty by the Earl of Onslow, the nurses being specially introduced by Miss Yamamoto, whose portrait we have much pleasure in publishing on this page.

In addition to the seventeen nurses who travelled across America, four more members of the unit who travelled by way of India—the longer route—hope to join it.

Arrangements have been made to accommodate the Japanese Nurses in two of the patients' huts at the British Red Cross Hospital, Netley, where some structural alterations have been necessary to provide suitable bathing accommodation.

The Japanese Red Cross contingent, now at Netley Red Cross Hospital, were warmly welcomed in New York as they passed through on their journey to England. An American journalist writes in the *Evening Sun* :—

"Don't you usually think of Japanese women as fitting about beautiful gardens under perpetually blooming peach trees and wistaria vines or sitting on mats in quaint little bamboo houses, drinking tea and greeting guests with low, low bows and always wearing exquisitely embroidered silken kimonos and carrying fans?"

"One almost invariably thinks of Japanese women in story-book terms, so it fell rather strangely on American ears, this news that a score

of Red Cross nurses from the Flowery Kingdom had arrived in New York en route to England. One had never thought of Japanese women going out of their homes to be nurses, yet here they were, at the Hotel Astor, a bit weary of the long days of travel across the Pacific Ocean and our United States, a bit awed at the bustle of Times Square and the huge hotel and the prompt appearance of callers, reporters and photographers.

"Up to the roof garden they all trooped obediently—this at the photographer's behest—seventeen little Japanese women, quiet, demure, ready to please, and very much interested in the proceedings. 'We have been shot so many times in America,' said one with a deprecatory gesture. . .

"Nursing has come to be quite a popular profession for women in Japan, according to Miss Yamamoto. The organisation of Red Cross Nurses is an integral part of Japan's military system and is directly under Government supervision. And it is a very democratic institution in spite of the aristocratic traditions of the country. No caste is recognised in the training schools, to which young Japanese women who have passed the requisite examinations are admitted; merit reigns supreme. And these decorations bestowed for excellent services are a guarantee of a pension when the years of active duty—fifteen or so—are over. Each medal means a certain amount of money given by the Government annually.

"Where did you get your medals?" one asks Miss Yamamoto, fortunately remembering her

manners and bowing. The Japanese lady bowed in return and began to explain very modestly.

"This is from Russia, and this, too; this from China—and these"—one never learned just what the several others meant; but they all came from foreign kings and emperors.

"The Japanese nurses are among the most highly skilled in the world, having a very thorough three years' training. They are in touch now with the International Council of Nurses, of which Miss Annie W. Goodrich of Teachers' College is president and Miss Lavinia Dock of the Henry Street Settlement is honorary secretary.

"It was about fifteen years ago," explained



MISS YAO YAMAMOTO,  
Head Nurse, Japan Red Cross Relief Corps to Great Britain.

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