

It has recently been announced in the Aberdeen press that the question of providing some central place as a residence for nurses on duty in the various military hospitals of the Aberdeen base is engaging attention, and that it has practically been decided that a public school in a central locality might be obtained where most of the 250 nurses could be housed, and that £1 a week would pay for the housing and other outlays including cost of conveyance to and from the hospitals.

A Nurse, writing in the *Aberdeen Free Press*, referring to the article in that paper regarding the allowances of the Territorial nurses, says:—

"To begin with, I think the number of nurses given, viz., 250, is wrong, unless the V.A.D. nurses are included, and their allowances are not the same as ours. Our allowances were set down in our Standing Orders in peace time, and are made just the same by the Government, although the nurses do live in. Now, may I ask, if we are to be 'housed, fed, and transported' on £1 per week, where is the remaining 18s. to go to?"

"Also, why should the nurses be selected as victims of this sudden desire for economy? So far as we can see, the medical men have certainly the best of it, as in addition to the large salaries and allowances made them by the Government, many of them still manage to carry on their private practices. After all, by the time schools are taken, altered, and furnished, and the nurses' usual allowances made, where is the economy?"

"May I also add that the majority of nurses here have left posts where they were earning clear two guineas and upwards per week, and did not join the hospitals from a financial point of view."

In the Standing Orders of the T.F.N.S., Matrons, Sisters and Nurses are entitled to the following allowances: Board and washing, £39; and, where quarters are not provided, fuel and light allowance (average), £11 3s.; lodging allowance, £41 1s. 3d.

Miss Hannah Brewerton, the Matron of the Government Hospital for Europeans at Zanzibar, who is at home on leave, has had her full share of war nursing. The hospital, formerly the British Consulate, has a landing stage on the harbour, and after the tragedy of the *Pegasus*, which took place in full view of the hospital, the wounded survivors were taken to it. Sick and wounded officers and men from the mainland, especially after the bombardment of Tanga and Dar-es-Salaam, were also brought down, so that the year has been a very full and busy one.

Miss Brewerton, who is well known and greatly respected by Europeans and natives in the island, having lived there, first as Matron of the Hospital of the Universities Mission, and latterly on the Government staff, for the last 23 years, had a narrow escape of her life in the early days of the war. Night falls at six o'clock in the island of Zanzibar, with absolute regularity and completeness. Returning to town with a friend, both

being on bicycles, darkness fell before they got back. She suddenly heard the word "Halt!" and turning to her companion said, "There's something up," but did not connect the word in any way with herself. Suddenly she saw that she was riding straight on to the point of a bayonet. She stopped on the instant and jumped off her bicycle, saying to the native soldier, "Why, you know me very well," to which she received the reply, "Yes, I know you very well, bibi, but not at this time of night." So much for the discipline of the "King's African Rifles."

In June (says a writer in *The Glasgow Herald*), there was established at Troyes a unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and this is working under the French War Office, being known as "Hôpital Auxiliaire Bénévole, No. 301." This unit has been equipped by means of the generous donations of present and past students of Girton and Newnham Colleges, and it is a proof that the establishment of hospital units for foreign service, which originated among the women of Scotland, is now receiving practical support throughout Britain.

The hospital consists of 200 beds and has for its site the beautiful domain of the Château Chanteloup about a mile from the town of Troyes.

The patients, who are housed in marquees on the lawn, are happy and cheerful, and look clean and even picturesque, many lying with their beds in the full sunshine, protected by coloured sunshades. Others, more convalescent, move about, or rest on long chairs. Each patient wears a broad rush hat, and on warm days he has the additional protection of a piece of scarlet cloth stitched inside his hat so as to hang down and cover his neck.

In the forenoon the sun baths are given, the wounds being exposed to the direct rays of the sun for definite periods of time. The nursing sisters flit about constantly among the patients keeping watch to see that the gauze screens over the wounds are kept moist, so that no drying of the tissues takes place, as well as to guard against any exceeding of the allotted time-exposure. It has been found by experience that the dosage of the sun's rays has to be given with the precision of an electric apparatus. The results have been so beneficial that the medical staff frequently give expression to the wish that this form of treatment in surgical cases could be carried out in our home hospitals. On those days when the sun does not shine—happily few—the patients remain within the tents and amuse themselves with books, writing, and games.

In the twilight, when the lights are up and preparations are being made for tucking the patients comfortably in bed, it is then that the hospital looks a veritable fairyland, and over one there comes a feeling of deep gratitude to all those at home who by their generosity and self-denial have enabled the staff to carry so much comfort and happiness to these wounded and wearied soldiers."

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