

Miss Jessie Milne Smith and a party of 20 Canadian nurses left London at midnight on Thursday, July 8th, to join a transport, en route for active duty in Egypt. All good wishes go with them in their patriotic work.

There is no doubt that with a little foresight nursing arrangements at Malta and in Egypt might have been more complete and efficient in time for the wounded returned from the Dardanelles, and it was owing to private enterprise that several units of thoroughly trained nurses were requisitioned from England at least two months after the event. Even now we hear certain hospitals at Cairo are under staffed.

In this connection Sir A. Markham asked in the House whether the Secretary for War refused to give his consent to private persons sending out to Egypt private hospitals at their own expense; and whether, as a consequence, when the wounded from the Dardanelles arrived at Alexandria they were sent to the German hospital to be nursed by German nurses. Mr. Tennant in his reply said that private hospitals were not and are not required in Egypt, and that the arrangements for the reception of the wounded at Alexandria were adequate in all respects, and that the General Officer Commanding in Egypt exercised a wise judgment in making use of the German hospital. In fact he would, no doubt, have been criticised adversely in the House and outside if he had failed to make use of all the suitable accommodation which was at his disposal.

We sympathise with the War Office in opposing private persons running military auxiliary hospitals, especially abroad. In very few instances have they been a success from the nursing standpoint, as so much unskilled help is permitted. A smattering of trained nursing is often all that is requisitioned, and of discipline, in many hospitals, there is none.

It is expected that the Australian Hospital (No. 3 General) which is staffed by members of the Australian Army Nursing Service, under Miss Grace Wilson as Matron, will be established at a convenient base in the Mediterranean for receiving wounded Australians from the Dardanelles.

A Sister who some weeks ago went out to the Grecian Archipelago sends the following letter to her sister, and it is a warning to those nurses who cannot stand great heat not to offer their services at this time of year for Egypt, as a hospital ship is not always handy:—

"I suppose you will have heard of my going out to Egypt to nurse the wounded, well the heat in Alexandria bowled me over altogether. I was only on duty in the Government Hospital about one hour when I had to return to the hotel (the Regina Palace) where we were staying. The next day I was asked if I would like to go on a hospital ship and I was very glad indeed to go. It was delightful after the heat in Alexandria. Well, if

you get this without it being censored you will be interested to know that I have been right up to the Dardanelles, and very few women can say that. We were at a place called —, an island between Turkey in Europe and Asia and then after that at a place called —, where we could hear the firing all night and even became accustomed to it. Now we have wounded on board and are bound for Malta. I shall be obliged to go ashore in Malta in my army cap and apron on account of the heat. I have got several badges (metal) of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers. I'll give you one when I get home."

Public opinion in South Africa is delighted with the fine generalship by which the Union Forces have conquered German West Africa and occupied and subdued an enemy territory of a larger superficial area than that of Germany. General Botha is, of course, the hero of the hour. Thus many patriotic nurses are now free to offer for home service. From Pretoria comes the information that in view of the constant enquiries the Defence Headquarters announce that the Union Government has arranged with the local Imperial authorities to give facilities in the event of the Imperial Government asking for trained nurses from South Africa, which it has hitherto not done. The Union Government also offered to do everything possible to meet any request from the Imperial Government for the formation of various units, particularly medical, as part of an Imperial Service Contingent, but the Imperial Government's wishes on this subject have not been intimated.

The nurses of South Africa are longing to take part in active service in Europe, and many are now leaving at their own expense for this purpose. The War Office has replied to an offer to supply nurses if employment and salaries are guaranteed, made through the *South African Nursing Record*, that it "can only accept nursing units sent and guaranteed by Government." Meanwhile, in view of possible requirements, a list of applicants is being kept.

One aspect of the case must be kept in mind, Trained nurses from the Overseas Dominions volunteering for active service in Europe expect to be sent to base hospitals or nearer the fighting line at the seat of war, to France, Malta, Egypt and elsewhere, and few are content to serve in England, either in military or Red Cross Hospitals. Thus large contingents have with some difficulty been ordered on foreign service. We think for the future nurses from our Dominions and from America should understand that service in England is quite as useful and honourable as "at the front." At the same time they should not be deputed to serve in little hospitals with a staff of V.A.D. orderlies. We know from personal interviews that they strongly object to supervise and teach these probationers, they consider it waste of time, after coming from the other side of the world, and they should not be given this task.

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