

Miss Alice Simpkin (formerly Sister Hope at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and now working in Nyasaland as a member of the U.M.C.A.) writes in *League News*:—

"The first converts of the Mission, who were released slaves, were baptized on St. Bartholomew's Day. That festival has always been a red-letter day in the Mission, and what corresponds to our summer holidays at home always begins August 24th. They last for three weeks. On August 30 the doctor came for a few hours on his way up the lake; he took off the Padre, who had been ill for seven weeks. The next day the priest in charge said the 'ladies' were to go away for a holiday. There was no one

"We wanted some bracing air, and had often, on a clear day, looked with longing eyes at Chipata, a hill some thirty miles inland, north-west of Kota Kota. It stands out so clearly in the strong light, and makes a beautiful background to the long stretches of plain one sees when you get a little above the lake level. We started at 6.40 a.m. Mr. Stych seemed quite pleased to take the keys to do the housekeeping, and Padre was going to give an eye to the hospital and the Dawa—i.e., the out-patient department—which was left in charge of the senior Dawa boy. Our loads consisted of two tents, two deck and two little folding chairs, one bath on the top of which Dora Mann



MISS JENKINS.

THE NURSING STAFF OF THE BARNET INFIRMARY.

very ill in the hospital just then. August had been a trying month. I had to get up once or twice in the night, fifteen nights out of the month, and I had a nasty suppurating finger which would not get well. Miss Mann, the lady teacher, who has been single-handed for eight months, was also feeling quite ready for a rest. Where should we go? The only passenger steamer has lately been commandeered by the Government, as 350 South African troops—Englishmen—are coming up to help at the north end of the lake; also steamer travelling is very expensive: the *Queen* charges £5 from Kota Kota to Likoma, less than sixty miles as the crow flies, nine hours' journey.

strapped her hammock, a tin box each, two camp beds, our blankets, pillows and sheets (no mat or mattress is required on the camp bed), two food boxes, one basket of cooking pots, and another of plates, &c., two small folding tables, fifty fish, sun-dried for the boys' relish, which, by the way, had a strong smell of its own. When the camp was pitched the boys generally hung it well in the wind for us, but it was soon removed. Then there were the two machilas* and Dora Mann's bicycle. We had sixteen machila men and fifteen men to

* Hammocks in which travellers are carried by native porters.—Ed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)