

THE HIGHLY IMPORTANT ZULU WAR ROYAL RED CROSS PAIR AWARDED TO MRS. JANE DEEBLE, THE CANADIAN BORN LADY SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSES, ARMY NURSING SERVICE, WHO LED THE FIRST EVER CONTINGENT OF MILITARY NURSES ON CAMPAIGN WITH THE BRITISH ARMY, TAKING PART IN THE ZULU WAR AND SEKUKUNI CAMPAIGNS OF 1879. FOR HER SERVICES DURING THE ZULU WAR SHE WAS DECORATED BY QUEEN VICTORIA AT WINDSOR CASTLE ON 5 JULY 1883, THIS BEING THE SECOND AWARD TO AN ACTUAL NURSE, THE FIRST BEING TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE. UNDER MRS DEEBLE'S DIRECTION, WHO WAS AT ITS HEAD FOR A RECORD 21 YEARS, THE ARMY NURSING SERVICE SAW GREAT DEVELOPMENTS AND SHE WAS CREDITED WITH SAVING IT FROM EARLY EXTINCTION. HER SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL WAS ONE OF JUST 14 ISSUED TO NURSES



ROYAL RED CROSS, 1ST CLASS, V.R., GOLD AND ENAMEL, ON LADY'S BOW RIBAND;
SOUTH AFRICA 1877-79, NO CLASP 'MRS. J. C. DEEBLE, "SUPERT. OF NURSES."' '

Royal Red Cross *London Gazette* 25 May 1883: 'for Zululand'; presented by the Queen at Windsor.

Jane Cecilia Deeble (née Egan) was born on 28 May 1827 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and married an army surgeon who succumbed to disease during the Abyssinian Campaign of 1868. Possibly due to the death of her husband, that same year, Mrs Deeble entered St Thomas Hospital as a Probationer of Florence Nightingale's training school. Joining the military establishment on 1 November 1869, she became Superintendent of the Staff of Nursing Sisters at the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley and in 1870, Lady Superintendent of the Army Nursing Service, taking over from the unpopular Lady Jane Shaw Stewart. Under her direction, the Army Nursing Service saw great developments and slowly expanded, Mrs Deeble, who gained immense popularity, was at its head for a record 21 years.

A pioneering woman of army nursing, she lobbied for nurses to accompany the army on campaigns and finally in 1879 she was posted to South Africa, in charge of 6 Netley nurses for service during the Zulu War. These nurses under Mrs Deeble charge became the first nurses to officially serve with the

British army on campaign. During the Zulu War, most of the Netley nurses were based at military hospitals at Pietermaritzburg, Newcastle and Addington near Durban. 7 nurses from the Stafford House Aid Society, who travelled to South Africa independently, also served during the Zulu War



In October 1879, with build-up in forces for the Sekukuni campaign, a hospital was formed at Middleburg in the Transvaal to attend the sick and wounded, this staffed by Lady Superintendent Deeble and three of her Netley Nurses. The campaign itself lasted between November – December 1879 but Deeble and the nurses stayed on for some months attending the sick, not returning to Pietermaritzburg until 21 March 1880. After a short stay and joined by the other nurses, they sailed for Southampton to resume their duties at Netley

Surgeon-General Woolfryes, principle Medical Officer in South Africa would describe the nurses service as:

“duties performed most zealously and efficiently, and their example of devotion to their duty having a most beneficial effect upon the orderlies of the AHC.”

and in his in his report to The Duke of Cambridge, he remarked that:

“..those belonging to Netley under Mrs Deeble and of the religious Communities did much excellent work and contributed very materially by their tender care and faithful nursing to alleviate the suffering of the sick and wounded. I may add that by their example they stimulated the Hospital Orderlies to practice with zeal in the performance of their duties”

LATER SERVICE AND THE ROYAL RED CROSS

Newspaper reports that Deeble was sent out to South Africa again in late January 1881, this time for service during the 1st Boer War. However details of their service there has yet to be found.

In 1882, she was set to take charge of the nurses setting sail to take part in the Egyptian campaign, however in the event, she stayed at Netley and her service in South Africa would be her last campaign service. Further details of her life and service can be found later in this write up.

Invested at Windsor Castle from the hand of Her Majesty, Deeble's Royal Red Cross was the tenth to be awarded following the inception of the decoration in 1883. Of the previous nine issues, eight had been bestowed upon ladies of royal or similar connections and the other on Florence Nightingale. Therefore, Mrs. Deeble's Royal Red Cross must be considered the second to be awarded to an actual nurse. Prior to the Boer War, this new award to nurses was regarded as the nurses Victoria Cross, with only in the region of 80 additional awards being made between 1883 and 1899, some of these retrospectively to the Crimean War.



MRS. DEEBLES, OF THE ARMY NURSING SERVICE, AND HER ASSISTANTS, RECENTLY DESPATCHED TO NATAL

The recipient's Army Service Record at this time adds: *'Specially reported on for conspicuously good service. Highly praised for her administrative capacity and thanked by command of the Queen.'*

A year later, in 1884, South Africa 1877-9 medals were awarded to the nurses who served in South Africa during the Zulu War. Just 14 medals were issued to nurses, all without a bar. A year earlier, medals had been awarded to nurses who served in the 1882 Egyptian campaign, so chronologically, medals to nurses who served during the Zulu war were the first awards to nurses but Egyptian campaign medals were the first actually awarded.

Interestingly, it was Superintendent Deeble that introduced the grey ward dress and short scarlet cape worn by nurses of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, the modern successor of the Army Nursing Service.

Condition NEF, One side of ribbon arm to RRC loose. Sold with copied research both paper and digital. Ex AA Uphill-Brown Collection, DNW 1991, where it hammered for the huge sum for the time of £3777

A historically important and excessively rare Nurses pair of medals

MRS JANE CECILIA DEEBLE

"Mrs. Deeble's Royal Red Cross was the tenth to be awarded following the inception of this award in 1883. Of the previous nine issues, eight had been bestowed on ladies of royal or similar connections

and the other on Florence Nightingale. Therefore, Mrs. Deeble's R. R. C must be considered the second to be awarded to a lady for nursing services. Approximately 15 medals to nurses for the Zulu war.

Jane Cecilia Deeble, widow of Surgeon-Major William Deeble, who had met his death in the Abyssinian Campaign of 1867, entered the Military Establishment on 1 November 1869, having previously been a Probationer in Florence Nightingale's training school at St. Thomas' Hospital. On taking up this appointment, she became Superintendent of the Staff of Nursing Sisters at the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley and in 1870 Lady Superintendent of the Army Nursing Service, a post she continued to occupy until 1889, a record span of office. Apart from gaining immense popularity as a 'homely' type of woman, Mrs. Deeble has been credited with saving the Army Nursing Service from early extinction, more so following the damage done by her rather bossy and aristocratic predecessor, Jane Shaw Stewart. Her initial appointment had sprung from an interview with Florence Nightingale in November 1869 but from the tone of the latter's report to one Dr. Sutherland, it seems surprising her military nursing career ever got off the ground:

'She is brave, sincere, courageous-but she has no observation-she is quite incapable of understanding far less of making a Regulation or an organisation... Any officer may turn her round his finger. She will be engaged in planning a nice tea for the Nurses, while she lets the Nursing go to ruin... I have not approached the subject of the Regulations yet with Mrs. Deeble. I doubt whether she has seen them. I doubt whether she is able to understand them. I doubt whether she has a glimmer of the fact that she is to have a personal relation with and report to the War Office.'



Despite the inglorious nature of her first interview, Mrs. Deeble was duly accepted. This change of definition or direction within the Service - namely a more humane and less stuffy approach to nursing - did much to preserve the future of the profession, particularly within military circles. Nonetheless, Mrs. Deeble held strong views on the type of woman suitable for such employment. As late as 1887 she was busy observing that many nurses were not ladies but rather offspring from 'the shop girl

class.' She was also anxious that her girls should prove themselves tough enough for military campaigning. To that end she fought rigorously for their employment in South Africa during the Zulu War and at length won approval to depart with a small team of six Netley nurses, albeit in the wake of seven women from the Stafford House Committee.

Her enthusiasm to prove that the 'Netleys' were made of sterner stuff became rapidly evident. On their first night in South Africa, Mrs. Deeble declined the use of canvas, insisting her team would sleep rough. It was unfortunate that a rather heavy rainstorm ensued, thus compelling them to retreat to the cover of the opposition's lodging! Far from being downhearted, the redoubtable Mrs. Deeble set about her duties admirably, and was duly commended for 'conspicuously good service.' Highly praised for her 'administrative capacity,' her activities were specially acknowledged by command of Queen Victoria.

Some while later Her Majesty had the opportunity to personally decorate her at Windsor Castle. Mrs. Deeble finally retired in 1890. Much of the above detail has been taken from Anne Summers' 1988 publication, 'Angels and Citizens, British Women as Military Nurses, 1854-1914'.

The above extracted from the superb Netley Military Cemetery website:

<https://www.netley-military-cemetery.co.uk/staff-who-worked-and-helped-at-the-hospital-a-f/deeble-mrs-jane-cecilia/>



The 1881 census shows Jane Cecilia Deeble, Superintendent of Nurses, Widow age 50 and her sons Henry Percival Deeble age 21 a student in the Army, Stephen Lawson Deeble age 19, a student of Medicine and daughter Ellen Sophia Deeble age 16, a scholar living at The Royal Victoria Hospital. Mrs Deeble died on 8 September 1913 and is buried in an unmarked grave at Ryde New Cemetery Section

A SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT DEEBLE NEWS ARTICLES

THE GLOBE 30 APRIL 1880

THE NURSES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A report from Natal, dated March 23, announces the safe return of Mrs. Deeble, Superintendent-General of Nurses under the War Department, together with several of the nursing sisters sent out from Netley, at Pietermaritzburg, on March 21, after a protracted journey from the Transvaal, where they had been attending to the sick and wounded of the Sedoconi campaign. Mrs. Deeble had been suffering from a severe attack of fever contracted while nursing the military patients at Middleburg, where much typho-malarial fever had prevailed, but was slowly convalescing. After a short rest at Pietermaritzburg, Mrs. Deeble and the nurses under her charge were to embark by the mail steamer for Southampton, to resume their duties in the military hospitals at Woolwich and Netley. It is hoped that the sea voyage will remove the ill effects of the arduous work which has devolved on these ladies, often under very trying circumstances, during the recent campaigns in South Africa.—British Medical Journal.

A TRUE PATRIOT

Near forty years ago, William Deeble entered the Army as an assistant-surgeon: he became surgeon in 1855, and in August of that year landed in the Crimea with the 56th Foot. In due time he received the medal and clasp for Sevastopol and the Turkish war medal. Subsequently serving in India, he was promoted surgeon-major in 1866, and was afterwards attached to the Abyssinian expedition, in which he met his death. Surgeon-Major Deeble had given much thought to the subject of nursing sick soldiers, and having frequently experienced in his practice the want of trained nurses, his widow was induced to enter upon this sphere of work. She consequently in 1868 became a probationer in Miss Nightingale's



training-school at St. Thomas's Hospital, and in the following year was appointed Lady Superintendent at the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley. During her administration the number of nursing sisters at Netley has increased threefold. In 1879 Mrs. Deeble was ordered to South Africa in charge of the female nursing staff, and for her services in the Zulu campaign she received the war medal. In July, 1883, she was further decorated by Her Majesty the Queen with the Royal Red Cross. She is one of the very few ladies whose names appear in the official army list. One day called upon to inspect the newest arrangement in hospital ships; another waiting upon the Queen at Windsor; another selecting nurses for the front, and providing for their health and comfort on severe duty in a trying climate, Mrs. Deeble has deservedly become a prominent authority in all matters relating to the care of our sick or wounded soldiers.—*Illustrated Naval and Military Magazine*, April, 1885.

An interesting and noteworthy offer of nursing help for South Africa has been made to the Central Red Cross Committee, through the National Aid Society, by Mrs. Deeble, who commanded the contingent of the Army Nursing Service in the Zulu War—the first ladies sent into the field by the Medical Department. It is ten years since Mrs. Deeble retired from her responsible post as Superintendent of Army Nursing, but it is pleasant to hear from her in her quiet Cornish home at West Looe that, although she is seventy years of age, she feels quite as equal to active duties as she did in Zululand. After her arduous exertions in the past, the committee, while thanking her warmly, feel, however, that it would be unfair to lay such heavy labours upon her again.—*Daily Telegraph*, Oct. 7, 1899.

EVENING GAZETTE ABERDEEN 6 JULY 1883

The Queen and Army Nurses. Royal Decorations.

The following ladies and nurses have had the honour of receiving from the Queen the decoration of the Royal Red Cross:—Viscountess Strangford and the Hon. Lady Lloyd Lindsay; Mrs Deeble, Miss A. E. Caulfield, Miss H. Stewart, Mrs M. A. Fellowes, Miss H. Campbell Norman, Miss B. Story, Miss E. Wheldon, and Miss J. M. Gray.

The ladies who were decorated as stated above had tended the British sick and wounded soldiers either in the Egyptian or Zulu campaigns. The party, including the Viscountess Strangford, Lady Lloyd Lindsay, and Mrs Deeble, the head nurse of Netley Hospital arrived at Windsor by train early yesterday afternoon, and were conveyed in three carriages to the Castle, where they were entertained at luncheon. The Queen attended by her suite, received the ladies at three o'clock in the White Drawing-room, and after conversing with several of those present, she affixed the decorations, which consisted of enamelled crosses attached to blue and red ribbon, upon the dress of the recipient. Her Majesty appeared to take great interest in the accounts which she received from Lady Strangford as to the work done by the nurses. The party returned to London about five o'clock.

ECHO LONDON 3 DECEMBER 1899

NURSING AT NETLEY.

Mrs. Deeble, the actual foundress of the Corps of Army Nursing Sisters, has resigned the superintendence of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, and her important post has been accepted by Miss Helen C. Norman. Mrs. Deeble was the wife of an officer who laid down his life in the Abyssian Campaign, and to her energy was due the entire re-organisation of the system of Army nursing some twenty-five years ago. She went out herself with some brave, devoted Sisters to South Africa during the Zulu War, and under her were trained the ladies who did such noble hospital service in the Soudan. All the highest decorations which it is in the power of the Queen to confer for nursing services or womanly heroism are hers, and right well she merits them.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH COURIER 18 JANUARY 1881

The Army Medical Department is sending out Mrs. Deeble and six lady nurses to attend the sick and wounded in the Transvaal, and passage has been secured for these ladies in the Union Steamship Company's Royal Mail steamer Pretoria, sailing from Southampton on 27th inst. It will be remembered that Mrs. Deeble and her staff of lady nurses rendered valuable assistance to the sick and wounded during the Zulu war.

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BURTON DAILY MAIL 13 APRIL 1917

No efficient arrangements for the care of the wounded had ever been organized until Florence Nightingale went out during the Crimean War, and, with her band of devoted assistants, which included Sister Mary Ladislaus and Mrs. Shaw Stewart, did such heroic work. It was the fearful sufferings of our troops during that war, the shocking revelations made afterwards about the inefficiency of the ambulance and hospital arrangements, and the picturesque and beloved figure of the "Lady of the Lamp," which prepared the way for the coming of the Red Cross movement.

Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone of Netley Military Hospital in 1856 and the first lady superintendent in 1861 was Mrs. Shaw-Stewart, who had been one of Florence Nightingale's chief assistants in the Crimea. Miss Nightingale wrote that "without her our Crimean work would have come to grief.—without her judgment, her unselfish, consistent looking to the one great end, namely, the carrying out of the work as a whole."

Mrs. Shaw-Stewart's immediate successor at this great hospital was Mrs. Deeble, who claimed a proud distinction in her record of service. She was the first woman to take a staff of nurses actually to the base of active operations in a savage country. With some twenty of a staff she was in charge of the nursing arrangements in the Zulu war of 1879 when the hospital was located on the bank of Olifant's River. The wisdom of sending women out under such conditions was questioned, but they did such good work that Mrs. Deeble and another contingent were sent out for the first Egyptian campaign.

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The Romance of the Red Cross.

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One of the redeeming features of modern warfare with its scientific methods of slaughter and attendant horrors is the movement symbolized by the Red Cross. In contrast to the fierce storm of shot and shell, the sanguinary carnage, and the pain and misery following the shock of battle, which make one almost despair of humanity, the simple white flag with the red cross signifies the divine spirit of compassion which seeks to succour the sick and heal the wounded. It has become the sacrosanct symbol of immunity on the battlefield, respected by all civilized nations. Under this white ensign, the science that on the battlefield is devoted to destruction is turned to healing and the relief of pain.

The Red or Geneva Cross—a red cross on a white ground—is quite a familiar symbol, particularly in war time. It is worn by everybody and is to be seen on everything connected with the treatment and transport of the wounded in time of war. It is to be seen on the arms of Army surgeons and chaplains and of men in the Royal Army Medical Corps; on ambulance wagons conveying wounded soldiers to the hospitals, and on ambulance trains. The Red Cross flag may be seen flying above hospitals, hospital ships and houses where wounded soldiers are being nursed and cared for.

But familiar as the emblem is, not everybody knows how the badge came to be adopted, and the romantic story of its origin will bear re-telling. The stirring, the dramatic, the pathetic, the romantic and the tragic stories that could be told in connexion with the work of the Red Cross would fill many volumes, not to mention those sentimental stories so beloved of the girl reader, who believes that the army nurse pursues her work of mercy on the actual battlefield under a hail of bullets and a storm of shells.

"THE LADY OF THE LAMP."

Ever since men went to war and fought battles, which was very early in human history, some effort has been made to succour the wounded. Every humane instinct bids a man bind his comrade's wounds, if at all possible. But as warfare developed and battles were fought on a larger scale the wounded had generally to depend for treatment on the unskilled services of non-combatants in the area of hostilities. In later campaigns doctors and orderlies accompanied the armies, but the medical staff was usually quite inadequate in numbers to give efficient service when the real necessity arose.

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THE ORIGIN OF THE RED CROSS.

The real author and originator of the Red Cross movement was M. Henri Dunant, a native of Geneva, who happened to be travelling in Lombardy in 1859. He was an eye-witness of the Battle of Solferino, which has been described as "one of the bloodiest conflicts of the century." Of the total forces of 300,000 men engaged, over 30,000 were killed and wounded in a single day.

M. Dunant was so moved by the terrible bloodshed, the sufferings of the wounded, and the shocking inadequacy of the medical and ambulance service, that he wrote a little book entitled "A Souvenir of Solferino," in which he set down in vivid and moving fashion his impressions of the horrors of a modern battlefield. This little volume touched the popular imagination and aroused public attention and sympathy.

Thanks to the untiring zeal of M. Gustave Moynier, an unofficial congress was arranged by the Society of Public Utility at Geneva in 1863 to discuss the whole question. The official congress summoned by the Swiss Government in the following year was a direct outcome. Representatives from all the European countries were invited. The convention, which was signed on August 22nd, 1864, on behalf of the States who had sent

delegates, was afterwards accepted and approved of by every civilized power. Some of the most important provisions are as follows: Ambulances and military hospitals shall be acknowledged to be neutral and such shall be protected and respected by belligerents so long as any sick may be therein.

Persons employed in hospitals and ambulances shall participate in the benefits of neutrality whilst so employed and so long as there remain any wounded to be brought in or to succour.

Wounded and sick soldiers shall be taken care of to whatever nation they may belong. Such in brief are the main items in what might be called the Charter of the sick, the wounded and the defenceless in battle.

The Red Cross on a white ground was chosen as the distinctive badge and flag to symbolize the Christian and humane principles which animated and underlay the Convention, and also as a complement to Switzerland, the birthplace of the movement. The Swiss national flag is a white cross on a red ground, and the reverse of these colours was adopted as the ensign of the Geneva Convention.

Turkey agreed in principle with the Convention, but from religious scruples could not agree to the use of a cross as a symbol. As a result the flag and badge used in army hospital work in Mohammedan countries is a red crescent instead of a red cross.

As a direct and immediate outcome of the Geneva Convention, there began in practically every civilized country the organized training of nurses and other voluntary workers in time of peace to assist the Army Medical Officers in time of war. Red Cross societies have been formed in every country under the auspices of their respective governments.

The horrors of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71 were responsible for a rapid expansion of the Red Cross movement, not only in France and Germany, but in other countries too. When the first awful stories came of the neglected wounded and dying on the stricken fields of Gravelotte and Sedan, common humanity demanded that something should be done.

THE RED CROSS IN THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

The late Lord Wantage organized the first English Red Cross Society, which was instrumental in raising £300,000 and in doing splendid work among the sick and wounded of the two belligerents. A system of depots was established at Strasbourg, Baden, Cologne and Colmar on the Rhine, others on the Moselle and Morelle, and at Lille, Amiens, Rouen, Orleans and Tours in France. Sir Wm. McCormick, afterwards Surgeon-General in the British Army, did brilliant work.

One of the outstanding figures in this terrible time was Miss Florence Lees, one of the first pupils of the Nightingale School, who was said to have been the most highly trained nurse of her day. She had charge of a military hospital before Metz, and her labours were heroic.

The South African War saw the passing of the old and the coming of the new in Red Cross work. Hospital trains were fitted up for the transport of wounded, and spacious hospital ships as floating nursing homes.

In theory the Army nurse does not come within the danger zone in practice she does sometimes. In South Africa hospital trains were sometimes fired on, and Sister Mary Grenfell was injured in one of these when it was partially wrecked by a shell. At Lady Smith, where Sister G. Dorcas was patron saint, as it were, of the hospital, she was sometimes fired on, and Sister Mary Grenfell was injured in one of these when it was partially wrecked by a shell. At Lady Smith, where Sister G. Dorcas was patron saint, as it were, of the hospital, she was sometimes fired on, and Sister Mary Grenfell was injured in one of these when it was partially wrecked by a shell.

THE WORKING OF A FIELD-HOSPITAL.

By way of illustrating the splendid work that is done under the Red Cross in a modern war, let us try to visualize the working of a typical field hospital during the latest European war. First of all the wounded are carried out of the trenches or wherever they have fallen, by the stretcher-bearers, who convey them to the motor ambulances. On these they are transported as quickly as possible to the field hospital, which is usually a few miles behind the firing line so as to be out of range of shell fire. The field hospital is usually under canvas, but any suitable and convenient building may be commandeered for the purpose. It is essential that it should be easily removable, for at any moment the order may arrive: "Up and off; the enemy is coming."

Immediately the wounded are re-placed in the motor ambulances and either removed to the base hospital or taken with the hospital transport to the nearest safe spot, where the hospital tents are pitched once more, and the humane work goes on as smoothly as if nothing had happened.

It is a strange life, that of the Red Cross workers in the field hospital. At any hour of the day or night motor ambulances may come in from the front filled with batches of wounded men. Silently and swiftly the sufferers are lifted out and carried to the wards. They are examined, probably under lamp-light, and possibly before they can be undressed and got into bed, a second and a third ambulance arrive with more maimed and injured men. Sometimes, however, swift the doctors and nurses work, the place becomes filled with stretchers, and it is only possible to apply iodine to clean the wounds and morphine to soothe the greatest sufferers until they can receive fuller attention.

Owing to the awful pressure of modern war, the deadly weapons and the huge numbers engaged, the sufferers have to be selected and

moved on from the need to the base hospitals very soon. As a rule a bed cannot be devoted to a single case for more than two days.

PROMINENT RED CROSS WORKERS.

A pretty human incident marked the arrival of a batch of wounded at St. Thomas's Hospital. One of the soldiers who limped into the entrance hall with the assistance of a couple of young students turned to one of the doctors asking, "Is this St. Thomas's Hospital?" and, being answered in the affirmative, said, "I've got a sister who is the nurse here." The young woman in question, one of the wardmaids, was promptly awakened, and there was a very happy reunion between brother and sister. And there have been many such glad meetings under the aegis of the Red Cross.

That the fine traditions of Florence Nightingale and her lineal descendants under the Red Cross have not been forgotten is proved by the splendid work of the women of Britain during the great European war. The noble work of such ladies as Miss Millington, Duchess of Sutherland, who continued nursing throughout the bombardment of Namur, of Lady Dorothea Fielding, who was attached to the "Flying" Ambulance, of Miss Berwick, whose hospital yacht was the last vessel to leave Ostend on the German occupation, will remain grateful memories in Belgium and France for many years to come.

Many other ladies have during the war followed the example of Miss Keyser (later Red Cross) who in times of peace and war equipped and maintained her home at Grosvenor Gardens, as a nursing home for Army officers. She had the decoration of the Royal Red Cross conferred upon her by King Edward VII, and also the right to call her home the King Edward VII Hospital.

And as all romances should have a happy ending, the workers under the banner of the Red Cross have the consolation, that although they may see a good deal of the ugly side of war, which has been said to be "nearly all seamy side," their work is towards the happy end of making it less seamy, more merciful, and more humane.

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Dr. Palmer	0 10
Messrs. T. G. Green and Co.'s	2 10
Mr. Clarke, Granville Hotel, Woodville	4 0
Messrs. T. G. Green and Co.'s	3 10
Walter Cooper and Maurice Evans	0 10

CHURCH ARMY AND THE WAR.

Amongst the interesting proofs of gratitude received from men "Out There" by the Secretary of the Church Army's "Treat for Troops" Department which sends regular parcels to individual soldiers, are a group of letters from a Somersetshire rifleman (who wore the Church Army uniform before he put on khaki), written from somewhere on the track of St. Paul's missionary journey and describing the daily barking of the British guns and the flower-covered hills; and a little letter from a private in a Machine Gun Corps on the Western Front, who saty remarks that he must not say where he picked it up.

A SWISS PRACTICAL JOKE.

GENEVA, Friday.

An amusing practical joke was played at the Germanophile paper the "Berne Tagblatt" by some unknown jesters a day or so ago. The "Tagblatt" of Berne reports that some unknown persons bought up the whole edition of the "Berne Tagblatt" straight from the press, and inserted an illustrated satirical sheet dealing with the German war loan, and then had the papers circulated as usual. It is stated that the directors of the "Tagblatt" were insoluble, and made profuse excuses to the German legation at Berne.

POPE AND THE SITUATION.

ROME, Friday.

The Pope has arranged to hold, after the Easter octave, a series of important conferences with the Cardinals concerning world political events.

It is authoritatively stated that the Russian revolution and the intervention of the United States in the war have made a strong impression on His Holiness, and the most influential of the Cardinals are urging that the Catholic Church ought no longer to hold itself aloof from the great movement of civilised nations which is now being manifested. The Cardinals have already held several preliminary conferences on the subject, and in high ecclesiastical circles it is firmly believed that, at the instigation of the Cardinals the Pope will shortly make a declaration of the highest importance.

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