



UNDER THE RED CROSS FLAG.

BY SARAH A. TOOLEY.

Wheresoever lay the wounded,
Hospital, or church, or shed,
Waved therefrom the glorious symbol,
Waved the white flag crossed with red.

Dear land, whom triflers now make bold to scorn,
(Thee! from whose forehead earth awaits her morn,)
How nobler shall the sun
Flame in thy sky! how braver breathe thy air,
That thou bred'st children who for thee could dare
And die as thine have done!

AT this sad time, when the flower of England's manhood is shedding its blood on the battle-fields of South Africa, one turns with thankfulness to the humane organisation which affords help and succour to the wounded and dying soldiers. If anything can lessen the sorrow of the bereft or render less sharp the pang of those whose dear ones lie on beds of pain away from home and country, it is the knowledge that the dying have had the consolation of soothing hands beside their pillows, and that the suffering are supplied with all that medical skill and trained nursing can do to assuage pain.

This is the first time that the British Red Cross Society has been called upon to put forth its full powers on behalf of our soldiers. At the time of the Crimea it did

not exist, and, although it has given valuable aid to the Army Medical Service in minor wars in Egypt and the Soudan, no crisis like the present has before occurred to test its efficiency. It has, indeed, risen like a giant in its strength to carry out its campaign of mercy, aided by a public whose benevolence literally has no stint.

Before describing the beautiful hospital ship which bears the name of our beloved Princess of Wales, and which is the first of its kind equipped by the Society, I will give a few details regarding the history of the Red Cross movement. While everybody knows something about its humane work, many people appear to be in ignorance regarding its origin.

The Red Cross is not related to any religious movement, neither is it a modern survival of those noble Orders of Knights Hospitallers which gave succour to the wounded and distressed in the wars of the Crusades. It owes its inception to the publication of *Un Souvenir de Solferino*, in which the writer, M. Dunant, described the scenes of human anguish which took place after the terrible battle of Solferino, fought June 24, 1859, in connection with the

Italian war. M. Dunant's aim was to draw public attention to the appalling sufferings endured by the wounded on the battle-field, to show that the medical service attached to an army was not sufficient to cope with the distress, and that in the cause of humanity official organisation should be supplemented by private philanthropy. It seems almost like a romance that the little town of Geneva should be the spot where the good seed fell, germinated, and blossomed into the Red Cross movement.

O small beginnings, ye are great and strong,
Based on a faithful heart and weariless brain !
Ye build the future fair, ye conquer wrong,
Ye earn the crown, and wear it not in vain.

Only three months after the terrible disclosures of *Un Souvenir de Solferino* had been made, the Geneva Society of Public Utility made the book the subject of discussion. The date of that little local meeting, February 9, 1863, has become historic, for it marks the starting of the Red Cross. A committee was formed to give practical expression to the ideas of M. Dunant. It consisted of five members, General Dufour, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army, Dr. Louis Appia, who had acted as assistant surgeon during the campaign

in Italy, Dr. T. Maunoir, another distinguished practitioner, M. Henri Dunant, and M. Gustave Moynier, the President of the Society. The committee arrived at the conclusion that an International Conference should be convoked, and invitations were sent to the leading Governments. The response was encouraging, and a general Conference met at Geneva October 26, 1863. Thirty-six members attended, eighteen of whom were official delegates representing fourteen Governments, and six representing associations, notably the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. The original committee of five were also present.

The eyes of the world were on the little gathering; military officialism viewed it askance, and it had to prove that it was not going to complicate the working of existing army medical services and that it was not a meeting of dreamy, excitable enthusiasts. From the start, the Red Cross has kept free of all sensationalism. The result of the Conference was a unanimous feeling on the part of the members that a reform in the treatment of the sick and wounded in war was urgently needed, and it was resolved to promote the establishment of national societies as aids to the existing medical service of armies. The



From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, Baker Street, W

THE DISPENSARY.

society of each country was to be autonomous, and to have a central committee with power to control all branches in the national territory. The societies were to be established in close relationships with their respective Governments, and were to work in conjunction with the military service. It

time of war. It is the duty of a Red Cross agent to succour the sick and wounded brought within his sphere of action, even though they may chance to belong to the nation against which his own is fighting.

The next step which the Conference had to consider was the protection of the agents



From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, Baker Street, W.

THE STAFF OF NURSES.

was recommended that the societies should be organised in time of peace to be ready to accompany their national armies in the event of war.

A distinctive badge became necessary for the agents of the societies, and it seemed most fitting that the armorial bearings of gallant little Switzerland, the land which had given birth to the movement, should be adopted. Instead, however, of the Swiss device—a white cross on a red ground—the colours were inversed, and a red cross on a white ground became the badge of the aid societies, which were speedily known as the Red Cross. The badge was the same for all nationalities, for in the merciful work of aid to the wounded, distinctions of race are unknown. The various national societies were to afford mutual assistance in

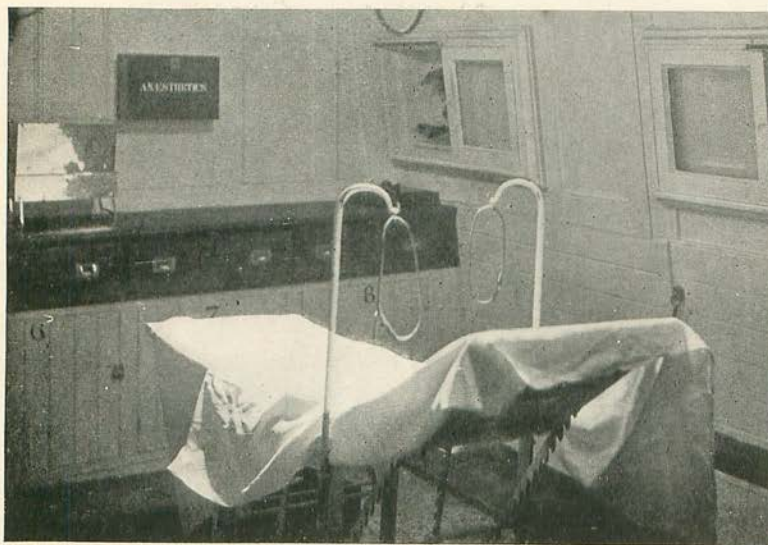
and property of the Red Cross societies in time of battle. In the old barbarous times of warfare, the foe held nothing sacred. The wounded were brutally used, robbed of the scanty provisions for their comfort, and left to die untended and unfed, while those who attempted to succour them did it at the peril of their lives. It was now proposed that wounded soldiers were to be exempt from violence, and that the doctors, chaplains, orderlies, and nurses, together with the ambulances, field and stationary hospitals, and, in short, everything requisitioned for the relief of the wounded, and the places which sheltered them, were by common consent of the nations to be held as neutral and secure from interference. The medical corps of the armies and the Red Cross agents and nurses were to wear

a neutral badge—an armlet (*brassard*) of white, with a red cross. A flag bearing the same insignia was to be displayed over all places where the wounded lay. The belligerent who refused to respect the sign of the Red Cross was to be held as having transgressed the laws of civilised warfare as much as if he had fired on a flag of truce.

The result of the Geneva Conference of 1864 was that nine Powers—France, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Denmark, the Duchy of Baden, and Prussia—immediately accepted the obligations laid down by the Convention, and twelve other

Red Cross work. It has been the prerogative of woman throughout the ages to be a “ministering angel” when “pain and sickness wring the brow,” and our own Florence Nightingale and her nurses had demonstrated in the pestilential hospital at Scutari, eight years before the Geneva Red Cross Convention, that women could nurse with success and propriety in military hospitals. There is no occasion to describe in detail the horrors of the Crimean War, when brave men died in thousands for the want of attention. At the Battle of the Alma the means of transport were so insufficient that the *wounded passed two nights on the field of*

battle before they could be conveyed to the ships which were to carry them to the hospital at Constantinople. The greater part did not receive medical attention of any kind until they reached the vessels, and the hospitals to which they were transferred reeked with disease and did not contain the necessaries of life. How the country was roused when tidings came of the sufferings of



From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, Baker Street, W.

THE OPERATION CABIN.

Governments—Sweden and Norway, Greece, Great Britain, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Turkey, Portugal, Russia, Roumania, Persia, San Salvador, the Argentine Republic, and the United States of America—followed their example in the course of the next few years. The movement has continued to spread until at the present time the whole world is practically united by a chain of Red Cross societies. There is no occasion to dwell upon the work which these have done—their utility was most strikingly manifested during the Franco-German War.

It is a matter for congratulation that from the beginning women have participated in

the soldiers is a matter of history, and the universal outcry made possible the mission of Florence Nightingale. The present is the first war of magnitude in which our country has been involved since the Crimea, and, thanks to the Red Cross, no such repetition of horrors is likely to occur.

The late Empress Augusta of Germany was foremost among Royal ladies to give her influence in support of Red Cross work, and she had unwearied helpers in the Empress Frederick, the Grand-Duchess of Baden, and the late Princess Alice. In all countries women of influence and position have helped the movement. Arrangements for training

special nurses to serve with the Red Cross in time of war have been universally adopted. The nurses have proved equal to the strain of work, and their presence has had a most comforting effect upon the sufferers, and has been a refining influence in the military hospitals. "Tommy" worships the sisters, and shows them unbounded chivalry.

It will have been noticed that our own country was not one of the original nine who signed the Convention of Geneva. After the Crimea our military authorities reorganised the medical service and military hospitals, and it was probably felt that there was not urgent need for outside aid. The starting of the British Red Cross Society is in a great measure due to Sir John Furley, one of the most indefatigable workers on behalf of the movement in this or any country. Sir John (then Mr.) Furley attended the Conference of Red Cross Societies at Berlin in 1869, and when it was pointed out that England had not started



From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, Baker St., W.

SISTERS HOGARTH AND BRENNER
(Princess Christian's Nurses).



From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, Baker Street, W.

A GROUP OF OFFICERS.

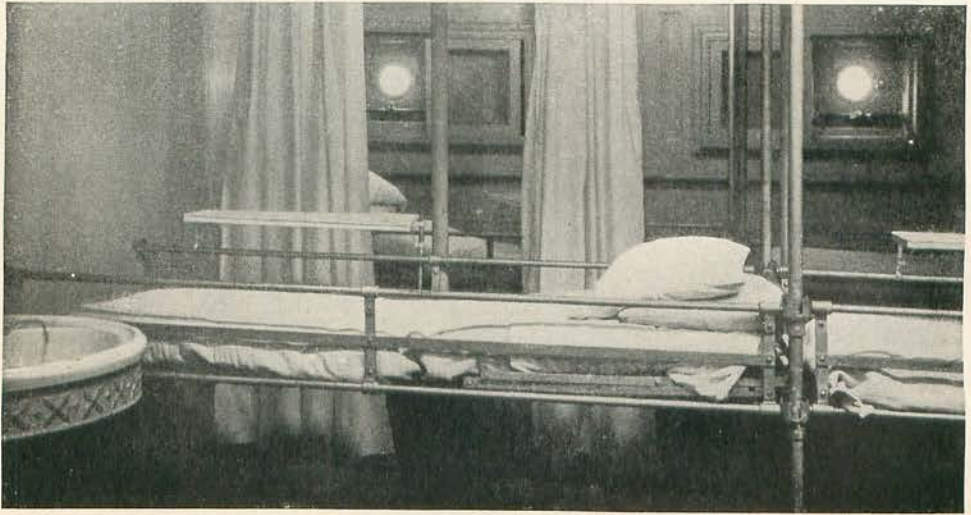
a society he rose in a spirit of faith and said that if a war should break out in Europe he would undertake to say that there would be a society in England fit to compare with any abroad. This prophecy was verified when shortly afterwards, at a meeting at Willis's Rooms, what is known as the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War was formed. Before the meeting, Lord Wantage had written an appeal to the *Times*, and headed the list with a subscription of £1000. Money flowed in from all quarters, and soon £300,000 was subscribed. The Franco-German War had recently broken out, and on the very night of the memorable meeting in Willis's Rooms Sir John Furley set out on a European tour of investigation. He went

to Paris to see what could be done to aid the French soldiers, and to Berlin to offer assistance to the Germans.

If England was a little late in beginning Red Cross work, she quickly made up for lost time. Immense enthusiasm prevailed throughout the country. There was scarcely a town or village where a local Committee was not at work preparing lint, bandages, and clothing for the soldiers at the seat of war. The storerooms of the newly formed Society would not contain the parcels sent in, and the vaults underneath St. Martin's Church were used in addition, and also a part of the playground round the church was covered in for the same purpose.

Lord Rothschild; Sir William MacCormac, Bart., K.C.V.O., P.R.C.S.; A. Kirkman Lloyd, Esq., Q.C., M.P.; Colonel J. S. Young; Sir V. B. Kennett-Barrington. The Secretary is Mr. James G. Vokes, and the central office is 5, York Buildings, Duke Street, Adelphi. It is by this committee that the Red Cross work is now being organised. Each society or branch carries out its own particular work, but for war purposes all are united under the directing body.

The Queen, being wishful to confer a distinction upon women who had specially devoted themselves to Red Cross work, instituted the Royal Order of the Red



From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, Baker Street, W.

A COT IN ONE OF THE WARDS OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

Her Majesty the Queen became the Patron of the Society, the Prince of Wales President, and the Trustees were the Duke of Connaught, the Duke of Westminster, and Lord Wantage. Princess Christian headed the Ladies' Committee, and the Princess Louise and the late Duchess of Teck served upon it. Recently the Central British Red Cross Committee has been formed with the sanction of the Secretary of State for War, the object being to bring all voluntary aid societies for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers under one controlling head. The Committee is composed as follows:—Chairman, Lord Wantage, K.C.B., V.C.; Deputy-Chairman, the Duke of Westminster, K.G.;

Cross—R.R.C.—on Saint George's Day, 1883, "for zeal and devotion in providing for and nursing sick and wounded sailors, soldiers, and others with the army in the field, on board ship, or in hospitals." Foreign as well as British subjects are eligible. The Princess of Wales, the Queen's four daughters, and the Duchess of Connaught, Duchess of Albany, the late Duchess of Teck, and the Baroness von Pawel Rammingen were among the first to be enrolled. Since its institution, the Queen has conferred the Red Cross upon fifty-eight sisters and private ladies for work amongst the wounded. Lady Wantage, the wife of the Chairman of the Red Cross

Society, whose portrait we give, was one of the first to receive the order after its institution. The Queen conferred it upon Lady Wantage for her indefatigable work upon the Ladies' Committee of the National Society at the time of the Franco-German War, and in subsequent campaigns. The German Cross of the Order of



On the Occasion of

the Visit of

H.R.H. The Princess of Wales.



Proceeding

at Portsmouth.

"The Princess of Wales"



Hospital Ship.



Commander: LIEUT. H. MARTYN JOHNSTON, R.N.R.

Chief Officer: LIEUT. JOHN T. FREEMAN, R.N.R.

Purser: W. F. HELBY.



22ND NOVEMBER, 1899.

MENU CARD USED AT LUNCHEON ON BOARD HOSPITAL SHIP BY PRINCESS OF WALES.

Clothes and material of every conceivable kind have been sent to the Society, and it will puzzle "Tommy" to know how to don some of the garments. Women of all classes have tendered their services, without pausing to consider their fitness for work. One lady wrote to ask when the *untrained* nurses were going to South Africa, as she wished

❧ MENU. ❧

Consommé.

Thick Mook Turtle.

Lamb Cutlets and Peas.

Roast Boned Turkey.

Game Pie. Roast Beef.

Galantine of Chicken.

Roast Chicken. York Ham.

Ox Tongue. Boiled Chicken.

Pheasant.

Macedoine of Fruit Jelly.

Strawberry Cream.

Pine Apple Cream.

Pastry.

Cheese.

DESSERT.

Coffee.

Merit was also conferred upon Lady Wantage by the late Empress Augusta of Germany.

If the Franco-German War aroused enthusiasm for Red Cross work, it can readily be understood that the needs of our own soldiers at the present crisis have brought it to a white heat. Money has flowed into the coffers of the Society during the past months, and one fears that home hospitals and charities may suffer in consequence.

to go out with them. Needless to say, only those of the highest training and qualifications are being sent. Another lady wrote to say that she could not nurse and knew nothing of ambulance work, but she was willing to go out and wash for the soldiers. Applications of all kinds have been so numerous that the Society hopes that the public will restrain itself from offering personal assistance and ambulance material,

but confine itself to contributions to the fund.

The most beautiful and unique outcome of the present time is the *Princess of Wales* Hospital Ship, chartered by the Red Cross Committee, and fitted up under the direction of Major W. G. Macpherson, R.A.M.C. The Princess of Wales has devoted to the fitting out of the ship the £9,000 balance of Her Royal Highness's fund raised at the time of the Soudan campaign. The Princess has taken the keenest personal interest in every detail of the ship, and has added £1,000 to be spent in luxuries and special comforts for the wounded soldiers. Her Royal Highness convened a committee at Marlborough House to carry out the work as a branch of the Red Cross Society. It consisted of the Marchioness of Lansdowne, the Viscountess Wolsley, the Lady Wantage, Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Hon. Sydney Holland, Sir Donald Currie, M.P., K.C.M.G., Sir John Furley, and Major Macpherson.

Mr. Sydney Holland was the chairman of Her Royal Highness's committee, and, together with Major Macpherson, toiled unremittingly to carry the enterprise through.

On the eve of departure, when it lay in Tilbury Docks, the ship looked like a white-winged dove of peace amid the murky waters of the Thames, with its graceful form outlined by a November fog. It was painted white from stem to stern, within and without, while on the sides of the vessel, on the life-boats, and on the life-belts, gleamed the Red Cross, proclaiming its errand of mercy. It carried the Red Cross flag floating beside the Union Jack. It looked indeed worthy of the Royal lady whose name it bears, the daughter of the Vikings whose ships have proudly swept the main in many

fierce encounters; but it has been fittingly reserved for Denmark's and England's daughter to send forth a vessel whose mission is to give succour. "It would be worth being hit, sister," said a soldier to one of the nurses as he looked at the ship, "to come home in her."

Inside, the vessel presents the appearance of a fully equipped floating hospital. There are three large general wards, named the Alexandra, Louise, and Maud, and one smaller one for wounded officers, named the Victoria. The large wards contain an average of forty beds apiece. Very cool

and restful the cots looked with their snowy linen. Each is fitted with a soft mattress on a galvanised iron frame, and a certain proportion of beds in each ward are constructed to swing with the motion of the vessel, as a check to sea-sickness. Each bed is fitted with a movable back-rest and an invalid's tray, and is so constructed that it can easily be carried with the patient on to deck. Both the upper and lower deck are entirely covered with awning and provided with a variety of deck-chairs and stools suited for

invalids. These were the gift of Princess Christian.

The operation cabin is one of the most interesting in the ship. In the centre is the operating-table, upon which the electric light is powerfully condensed by a large shade.

Provision is also made for the application of the Röntgen rays. Against one wall was fixed a box marked anæsthetics, and by the side of the operating-table was a large receptacle for lint and bandages.

There is a fully stocked dispensary, with the bottles well fixed in sockets; a disinfecting room; an isolation ward for contagious



From a photograph by H. S. Mendelssohn.

LADY WANTAGE.

cases; and an electric laundry, where washing is simplified to the last degree. There is a pack store filled with hospital clothing; and a special cooling apparatus, which will produce half a ton of ice daily, has been provided for the preservation of food. The kitchen looked a model of neatness with its rows of bright copper utensils, and the master cook is an adept in the preparation of invalids' food. Bath-rooms abound in the ship, and a special bath is provided for convalescents. Every part of the vessel is supplied with electric globes, and when these are lighted, showing up the white walls and pretty pink and white cretonnes of the cabins, the effect is most cheery. There are a piano and organ on board, and a library of interesting literature.

The ship is commanded by Captain H. Martyn Johnson. The second officer is Lieutenant Freeman, of the Naval Reserve, and the Purser is Mr. W. F. Helby. Very cosy quarters, with a delightful smoking-room, are provided for the medical officers. The senior doctor is Major Morgan, and his assistant Captain Pearce. Mrs. Morgan has been most kind in supplying little things for the comfort and amusement of the men. The three surgeons are Messrs. Farmer, Crosthwaite, and Hardy. The orderlies consist of twenty-three men of the Army Medical Corps and the same number of volunteers from the St. John Ambulance Association. All wear smart uniforms and helmets of the now familiar khaki—a light brown material which matches the sandy soil of South Africa.

The four nursing sisters were specially selected; and we fancy that there will be great competition amongst the patients for their services. The Superintendent, Sister Chadwick, has had great experience as a military nurse. Sister Chadwick is the daughter of the late Mr. John de Heley Mavesyn Chadwick, who inherited from his father the family estates of New Hall, Sutton Coldfield; Mavesyn Ridwau, Staffordshire; and Heley Hall, Lancashire. He held a commission in the Dragoon Guards (the Bays), afterwards exchanging into the 9th Lancers, with whom he served in India during the Mutiny, and was present at the



From a photograph by G. Goodman, Margate.

SISTER SUPERINTENDENT CHADWICK.

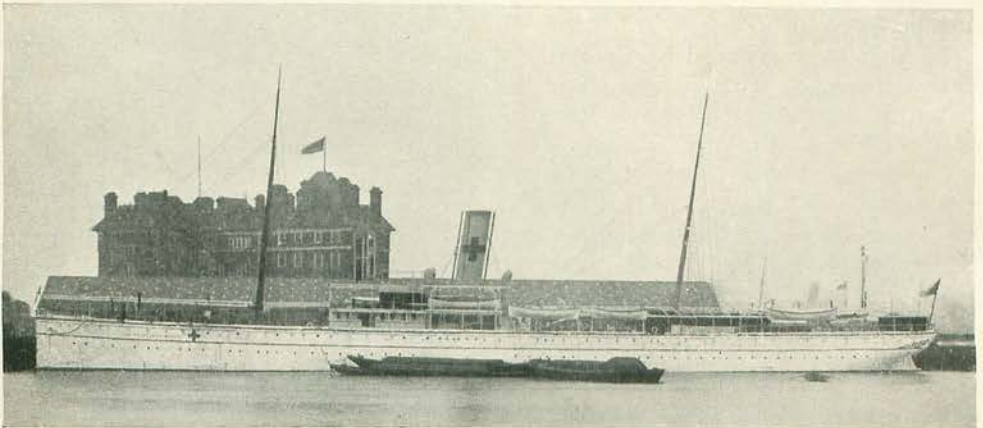
relief of Lucknow. Sister Chadwick received her first training from her uncle, Mr. W. Knight Treves, F.R.C.S., at Margate, doing surgical work with him. She subsequently went through a course of training at Guy's Hospital, and was highly certificated. After being in charge for a time of the operation theatre at the Evelina Hospital for Children, Sister Chadwick devoted herself entirely to military nursing successively at Netley, Woolwich, and the Guards' Hospitals. She also spent several years at the Military Hospital at Malta, an interesting old building where the Knights of St. John lived during the siege of Malta. After returning home, she worked in the Gosport Hospital, and at the outbreak of the present war was ordered to Colchester, leaving that hospital to take

charge of the Princess's ship. Sister Chadwick thinks "Tommy the most fascinating patient in the world," and her influence and power in dealing with the men are quite wonderful. Her uniform is light grey dress, scarlet cape, white active service cap, and white apron with bib to the throat.

The three other nurses are Sister Hogarth, trained at Leicester Infirmary, Sister Brebner, trained at Cambridge, both of whom came from Princess Christian's Nursing Home at Windsor, and Sister Spooner, from the Royal Free Hospital. They all wear the pretty Red Cross dress, dark serge gowns with red capes, white caps, collars, aprons, and cuffs, and for outdoor wear, long dark blue cloaks with red hoods, and dark

When the Princess of Wales came to name the ship she visited every part of it and distributed badges and ribbon favours of red and white to the staff. A very pretty incident happened when the Princess, seeing that one of the orderlies had some difficulty in fastening on his *brassard*, went to his assistance. The Princess also fastened on the nurses' badges with her own hands. Sister Chadwick's cabin was beautifully decorated with orchids and other choice flowers for the use of the Princess, and there Her Royal Highness chatted with the nurses and gave them many admonitions to guard against cold and exposure. She was attended by royal footmen bearing a large parcel.

"Now I will show you what I have



From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, Baker Street, W.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES HOSPITAL SHIP.

blue bonnets with white strings. All four sisters wear the Red Cross *brassard*, and above it the Princess of Wales's badge of white linen with the Danish cross surmounted by a crown. The two Windsor nurses wear, in addition, Princess Christian's silver badge.

The nursing sisters' quarters are a charming suite of cabins entirely to themselves, and having a private door on to the deck. Each sister has a daintily fitted cabin with an electric light over her toilet table. There is a general sitting-room for the nurses, fitted with comfortable lounge-chairs, and on the table stands an electric kettle, so that the cup that cheers may be quickly forthcoming.

brought," said the Princess to Sister Chadwick, and, untying the red and white ribbons of the parcel with her own hands, she displayed fifty down pillows, fifty small bolsters, twelve horsehair bolsters covered in chamois, and two hundred loose covers. The bolsters were covered in bright scarlet and bore the Princess's badge in the corner. "We have been making these at home," said the Princess in her sweet way, "and I wish each of the patients who uses one of the pillows on the homeward voyage to retain it as a memento of the Red Cross ship."

The vessel is expected back early in February, and she will probably make many voyages to the Cape to bear home the wounded.