

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to signify her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross upon the following officer of her Majesty's Army, whose claim has been submitted for her Majesty's approval, for his conspicuous bravery during the attack on the Sima Post by Kachins, on January 6th last, as stated below:— Surgeon-Major OWEN EDWARD PENNEFATHER LLOYD, Army Medical Staff. During the attack on the Sima Post by Kachins, on January 6th last, Surgeon-Maj. LLOYD, on hearing that the commanding officer, Capt. Morton (who had left the fort to visit a picket about 80 yards distant) was wounded, at once ran out to his assistance under a close and heavy fire, accompanied by Subadar Matab Singh. On reaching the wounded officer Surgeon-Maj. Lloyd sent Subadar Matab Singh back for further assistance, and remained with Captain Morton till the Subadar returned with five men of the Magwe Battalion of Military Police, when he assisted in carrying Captain Morton back to the fort, where that officer died a few minutes afterwards. The enemy were within 10 or 15 paces, keeping up a heavy fire, which killed three men of the picket, and also Bugler Purna Singh. This man accompanied Captain Morton from the fort, showed great gallantry in supporting him in his arms when wounded, and was shot while helping to carry him back to the fort. The native officer and five sepoys above alluded to have been awarded the Order of Merit.

THE Chapter of St. John of Jerusalem, with the sanction of the QUEEN, has conferred the Silver Cross of the Order upon Mr. WILLIAM FAIRBANK, of Windsor, surgeon to her Majesty's household and Prince and Princess CHRISTIAN, in recognition of his services in furthering the cause of the association by the establishment of railway and other ambulance classes for giving first aid to the injured.

THE *Lancet* understands that if the desirability of instituting some memorial of their late President, Sir ANDREW CLARK, be approved, the question of the form the memorial should take will be submitted to the consideration of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, of London, by the President, Dr. RUSSELL REYNOLDS, at the next general meeting of the College, on January 25th.

THE eighth session of the Hygienic and Demographic Congress will be held at Budapest, the opening meeting taking place on the 2nd of September.

Our Foreign Letter.

NURSING ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

IT may interest the readers of the NURSING RECORD to hear of the experiences of one of the first Nursing Sisters to go on service with troops in India.

In September, 1888 (the year in which the Indian Nursing Service was first started), we heard rumours of a projected expedition to the Black Mountain, to punish the Hazaras for the murder of two British officers.

At once we were in a great state of excitement to know, firstly, if Sisters would be sent at all; and, secondly, if they were, who would be the lucky ones. We heard, eventually, that five Sisters were to be sent, and I had the good luck to be one of them.

Our baggage was limited to 80 lbs., and it required a considerable amount of coaxing to reduce it to anything like that weight. We started by train on Oct. 1st to Hassan Abdul (where Lalla Rookh is buried), and from there proceeded by tonga (a covered cart on two wheels, drawn by two, generally half-broken and jibbing, ponies) to Abbotabad, where we were most hospitably entertained by Mrs. (now Lady) MacQueen, whose husband commanded the expedition. We remained at Abbotabad two days, waiting for our tents, and started on the 4th for Oghi, at the foot of the Black Mountain. Our procession, on starting, was a curious one. The Lady Superintendent and myself on our own ponies, two on mules, and the fifth in a dandy carried by four men, our baggage on mules and camels, and with an escort of six men from a native regiment to bring up the rear. After an enjoyable march of three days, we arrived at Oghi with no worse accident than one of the mules lying down occasionally and rolling its rider in the dust. The last march was a hot and dusty 12 miles, and very glad we were to see the red cross flag, which showed us where the Hospital tents were pitched.

The sick and wounded were either in Mountain Service tents, which held six men each—a very tight fit; or in large double poled tents, holding 16 men each.

Bedsteads, there were none; straw, covered with a mackintosh sheet, formed the bed, with an extra bundle of straw for a pillow; and two brown blankets constituted the bedclothes. Sleeping clothes were only provided for those who were very ill, the other men having only their ordinary kit. Two tin basins to every twelve men or so; soap an unknown luxury in most cases.

Though the accommodation on service is naturally very rough, the Field Hospitals are very well found as regards dressings and "medical comforts," such as compressed soup, &c.

Our patients were, about twelve men with gunshot wounds, and a large number of fever and dysentery cases.

The morning after our arrival we commenced work. Those of the wounded who could get up were outside the tents, sitting on upturned buckets, or whatever was handy.

"Now then, Sisters, come along and dress these wounds," said, with rather a critical air, the Brigade Surgeon in charge of the Field Hospital. We set to work, each Sister being attended by a small crowd of the Native Army Hospital Corps, carrying basins,

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