

It was the hospital built for the Egyptian Army. Her staff had been composed of English and Australian sisters and often they had worked long hours for lack of adequate numbers. The medical and surgical staff was partly New Zealand and partly English. Miss Michel and some of the sisters stayed on a few days to put our matron and sisters into the way of the military methods and rules, and by degrees the whole of the staff is now New Zealand, with the exception of one medical officer. Our nursing staff, when I left Egypt, was 35, and the sisters speak in good terms of the orderlies, who take an intelligent interest in their unaccustomed duties and are most helpful.

In and around Cairo there are 12 hospitals besides convalescent ones, and many of these hospitals contain 1,000 beds. Cairo however, though one sees officers and men swarming in the streets, hotels, and restaurants of Heliopolis especially, does not give one the same impression of war as does Alexandria, where besides the busy wharves, when at one time I saw as many as eight hospital ships and almost as many transports with wounded, there are hospitals and camps for men and horses all along the sea front, and on the desert sands near the city, where a number of tents are pitched.

In Alexandria there are six or seven hospitals and several convalescent ones. The largest hospital of all is here, containing 1,800 beds, a great part in tents on the sand. This is the only hospital where some of the nurses, some New Zealanders among them, are under canvas. I am not sure that some of the younger spirits among the nursing staffs were not a wee bit disappointed to find that in most cases they were housed under prosaic roofs and not dependent on their camp equipment! One must not, however, run away with the idea that nurses' homes in Egypt are quite on the comfortable lines of the permanent nurses' homes attached to our modern hospitals. No, there are usually as many nurses sharing a room as can be fitted in. Those who have them use their canvas stretchers which make quite comfortable beds. Canvas chairs are in evidence; but so far I do not think that the canvas baths and buckets have been brought into use. There are nurses sleeping in corridors and

on balconies and in one of our New Zealand nurses' homes the favourite place for the night nurses to sleep is on the flat roof, where a temporary shelter of matting has been erected. In spite of the sunlight filtering through, they say it is cool and quiet.

This is at Port Said, where we have a hospital established in a Mission School, and where nearly all the patients are under canvas. When this hospital was first opened it was intended only to take convalescent cases, and six of our second contingent of nurses, under Miss Cameron, as matron, were considered sufficient with orderlies, to staff it. Then a ship load of sick and wounded to the number of 400 arrived direct from Gallipoli, and for a few days until reinforced by some Canadian nurses, it was night and day work. Now there are 30 of our own nurses there so they are well off—if indeed the hospital has not already moved on nearer the front as was hoped by the staff. There is a lovely view of the sea from this hospital and the staff, also the convalescent patients, bathe here. The sisters have a nice bathing shed and generally run down in the evening for a dip.

At Port Said the great interest is the Canal, which is guarded by French war ships. All along the Canal one sees evidence of the fight there. There are the trenches and dug-outs which can be seen from the Canal itself, and from the rail way line. There are camps in various places, of Indian soldiers mainly. Staying in Port Said one is awakened at day break by the tramp of horses and waggons passing through the main street and looking down from one's balcony one sees long lines of troops bringing their horses up from their morning dip in the sea.

The lighter side of a nurse's life is not absent in Egypt. In ordinary times they have very fair hours off duty. Owing to the climate the matrons have mostly arranged that instead of a short time off each day the sisters on day duty should all be on in the morning from 7 a.m. till luncheon-time (dinner is always at night about 8 p.m.) that half should then remain on till 8 p.m., and half go off for the remainder of the day. This all the sisters like as they can, on the alternate half-day off, rest and go out in the cooler part of the day. At times when a fresh convoy of wounded comes in some