

hockey and polo played a very important part in the programme of South African life.

During August the refugees were largely distributed, each family receiving free seed, a month's provision, and were shown great kindness.

"A new element of interest in the refugee camp," says Miss Graham, "was the return of many prisoners of war from St. Helena and Ceylon. Whenever these men signified their willingness to take the oath of allegiance they were taken back to South Africa, and put on an equal footing with the other Dutch in regard to supplies of stock, seed, etc., from the Repatriation Board. All whom I met expressed regret that they had been so slow in taking the oath, saying they had never dreamed that the British would have shown such clemency.

"About the end of August there was a big farewell picnic for them, our last picnic on the banks of the Orange River. Such a jolly picnic it was! I think those teachers who expressed the opinion that the Boer children were dull and disinclined to play did so before they got acquainted with their charges. They were just as fond of fun as any children I ever met."

The group of teachers to which Miss Graham belonged were transferred to Fauresmith, travelling in an open railway truck to the nearest station, and then by camp carts along the railroad, which they did not see again for eleven months. Here the scholars soon increased to one hundred and fifty, "some of the girls as handsome," says Miss Graham, "as any I have ever seen, and all neatly dressed. The children were very kind and lovable. Every morning there was a crowd waiting on the front door-step, and we were mobbed by the girls trying to 'walk with,' as they



BRITISH REFUGEES TREKKING DURING THE WAR.

said, in order to put their arms around our waists."

Many of the houses had been sacked by troops, every dish broken, the silverware looted, furniture used as firewood, and of sixty-two pianos only two escaped. Some had the keyboards ripped out and the hollow space used for feeding-troughs for the horses. This was the work of both Dutch and English, who were each agreed that what one side spared the other had destroyed.

The Boers who had kept their oath of neutrality were severely scored by De Wet, and suffered chiefly by the hands of their own neighbors. As the town contained many influential Boer families, the teachers did not expect a cordial reception. They determined, however, to make friendly advances which were very cordially received, one old lady especially mothering the Canadian girls in the