

work under the orders of the medical officer. They give help to the wounded of their own regiment, and carry the wounded to the rear of the battalion as in the Crimean days. Thus far, there is no change in the system. But where the modern organisation comes in, and completes the Crimean defects, is by the development of a medical corps, under the medical officer's orders, which forms bearer companies. These bearer companies are units composed of some three medical officers and about 54 men, who, with ambulance waggons and stretchers, take over the regimental wounded and convey them to the "dressing-station," from half to three-quarters of a mile behind the battle-field where the wounded can be fully cared for, and after further dressing and food are sent back two miles or so to the Field Hospitals.

There are two bearer companies with each division, one being, as a rule, with each brigade, of which a division contains two. The bearer company clears the battle-field of wounded, and, irrespective of what regiment they belong to, gathers them into the place of help and refreshment.

The Field Hospitals are each organised for 100 wounded, and consist of tents, bedding, medicines, instruments, food, medical comforts, packed in waggons, and marching with the army. They have each four medical officers, one quarter-master, and 34 medical staff corps non-commissioned officers and men. These units care for the wounded, and send them back when recovered to their battalions.

If the wounded or the sick are too ill to return to duty, they are collected into what is called a "Sick Convoy," and they proceed stage by stage towards the base of operations, perhaps 200 miles away through trying roads. All along this road which is called the "Line of Communications," Stationary Hospitals are posted, and the Convoys rest at them, and, eventually, reach the base of operations, where the army lands from England for the war.

The Base Hospital will always be a most important place. It may be for 500 beds, and there may be several of these; thus, Scutari had 4,000 sick in it. For the Base Hospital masses of orderlies as Nurses, and plenty of Sisters as Superiors, are needed; and it will always be a real test of efficient organization that it shall work well. If the wounded do not recover at the Base Hospital they are sent to the Hospital Ship, and are in the end conveyed to England, and reach the great 1,000-bed Hospital at Netley, whence they proceed to their homes or regiments.

In this very meagre outline there is not space to explain all the details. It is necessary to point out that our Bearer Companies are very weak in men, and need much increase to be efficient. They also need practice, in peace, for war. The Field

Hospitals also need many orderlies; roughly, 50 men to care for 100 sick.

The transport question still awaits settlement, so that every Field Hospital will have its own transport, and every Bearer Company be perfectly mobile and ready for its work, either on the field or acting on convoy duty.

All these improvements can only come when people understand far better than they do to-day the methods of army medical organisation.

It is to aid in some degree in spreading that knowledge that this paper is written for the information of our Sisters employed in the Nursing branch of our great profession, and through them to many a home in England. If they fully understand our system they can spread the light in many a home where our difficulties are not understood.

"Daughters of Consolation."

A FEW HINTS TO PRIVATE NURSES.

Specially addressed to the Registered Nurses' Society.

AT this time, when a new organization for Private Nurses is being started, a few words to those of my fellow-members of the R.B.N.A., who are to form the Registered Nurses' Society, may not be out of place. I understand that nothing less than a term of three years' training will be accepted in the qualification of members of the new Society; but, while a three years' curriculum is necessary before "Nurse" dare be written with "trained" before it, the personal qualifications of a Private Nurse must necessarily be somewhat different from those of her Hospital sister. It has often been found that a Nurse, who has done fairly well under the routine of a Hospital ward, is not so successful when sent to attend a private patient. I believe that more than a good Ward-Nurse is required for private work, and the failure of many to prove themselves the comfort they ought to be, in a private house, arises from a mistaken selection, as well as from the want of direct training for the very different duties they have to undertake. Such training should not supersede, but should form part of, Hospital training, and if a Nurse does not get it in her training school, she should seek to learn what she lacks by spending some time in one of our many excellent Home Hospitals, where careful and valuable instruction will be given her in the detail and finish of work and service, which is too often crowded out of the teaching in General Hospital wards.

There are some qualifications indispensable to every woman as a Nurse, but for the Private Nurse there are some of very special importance, which are too often ignored. Well-cultivated powers of

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