

sacrificed than that hundreds of suffering sick soldiers should be neglected, killed outright, or permanently injured for want of proper care.

Doubtless it would happen with a feminine nursing staff near the front that after a defeat they would be taken prisoners with their patients. In case of retreat they would have to be left behind with the sick. What matter? It is doubtful whether the enemy would want to hamper themselves with feminine impedimenta. Anyway, the women would not be murdered or ill-treated—in a white man's land, at any rate—any more than the sick and wounded are.

Our catering has been taken out of contracting hands, and we are consequently doing very well in this direction. Even with so many messing together and nobody to make a profit out of it, it costs 3s. a day each to maintain us—not that our appetites are so big, but that food is so dear. The 3s. a day rate is a blue ribbon rate—no stimulants being supplied to the nursing staff. There is no prospect of our work lessening for many months.”

Mr. Kennedy-Laurie Dickson, speaking of the “wonderful work of the nurses” in South Africa, says:—“When I think of what those women did, I could get on the highest building in London and cheer for them. Their work has not been fully appreciated.”

ON the vote for a supplementary sum of £11,500,000 for additional expenditure on account of the war in South Africa and affairs in China, the question of military nursing was brought forward by Sir Walter Foster, M.D., and Mr. W. Burdett-Coutts, in the House of Commons, whose speeches, received with signs of approval, we quote from the *Times*, as we consider them of the utmost importance. We regret that, owing to great pressure on our space, they have had to be held over.

“Sir W. Foster hoped some detailed statement would be made as to the improvement of the Royal Army Medical Department. He thought the War Office had limited somewhat unwisely its choice of civil surgeons for service in South Africa. Men of medical rather than of surgical capacity were required, and the Department would have been well advised had it selected some men of greater age and experience. With reference to the Department itself, he thought the establishment was dangerously low. The numbers were something under 900, whereas 20 years ago they reached 1,200. The corps was so diminished in number and so starved as regards medical equipment that if we were to send a division to China now, and a German division of the same strength went out, it would be found that the German force had probably 50 per cent. more medical officers than our force. That was discreditable to the country. The country had shown the greatest generosity both in voting supplies and in raising funds for the purpose of seeing that

the soldiers were well treated. But they had not been so well treated as they deserved. We had lost many hundreds of brave fellows from the want of proper medical appliances. In China they had the danger of a disease more serious and loathsome than enteric. Plague was prevalent in that empire at the present time, and our troops would be exposed to sanitary dangers of the gravest kind. He hoped, therefore, that the War Office would be wise enough to take precautions against an outbreak of plague, or, at all events, would endeavour to minimize its effects as much as possible. (Hear, hear.) He complained of the rigid rules regulating the number of female nurses in connection with the Army Medical Department. A lingering malady like enteric required constant nursing, and in order to lessen the terrible drain on our forces which it caused it was desirable that the number of female nurses should be largely increased. He proceeded to advocate the establishment of a reserve medical corps in this country. It would not, he said, be difficult to get a large number of young medical men to hold themselves in readiness under very easy conditions to accept service in case of national necessity. (Hear, hear.) . . . The War Office had acted wisely in reinforcing the Army Medical Department by a number of operating surgeons during the present campaign. They would have taken a still wiser step if they had sent out a number of physicians, for under the conditions of disease which existed they would have been greatly helped by the experience of men who had been attached to the fever hospitals of this country. Then more attention should be given to the sanitary aspects of the campaign. It was true that military medical officers were trained more or less in sanitary science, but judging from the results of the present campaign he could not consider that their efforts as sanitary experts had been satisfactory. He had been told by friends who had been through the campaign that over and over again troops arriving at a town had been allowed to camp on ground which had been left by previous detachments—ground very often fouled by serious disease. The consequence was that body of men after body of men had come under conditions that made disease rife among them. This he declared could have been prevented by a wise sanitary supervision of the line of march. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Burdett-Coutts desired to make a remark on the subject of the censorship. No one could realize better than he did the necessity of striking out of correspondents' telegrams anything that could in any way affect the strategic or military aspects of the campaign. Statements as to the condition of the sick and wounded ought not to be censored; but they had been. The

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