

Later, Lord Kitchener gave evidence which confirmed that of Lord Roberts. He deprecated placing the transport altogether under the charge of field hospitals and confirmed Lord Roberts's evidence with regard to the supplies brought into Bloemfontein while the force was there. One thousand six hundred and eighty tons of medical stores were brought up—all that was possible under the conditions then existing. The activity of the enemy necessitated the troops being sent out and the field hospitals had to be emptied to accompany them, causing overcrowding. On the advance from Bloemfontein the field hospitals and ambulances were brought up to their full strength. He has never heard of men having fallen out on the road with no one left to attend to them. Only two complaints were made in Bloemfontein, and both of these were about men being brought in at night and not accommodated in hospitals in the morning.

Although he saw Mr. Burdett-Coutts frequently Mr. Burdett-Coutts never made any complaints. If he had done so matters would have been investigated at once. The medical service worked hard and well during the campaign.

Surgeon-General Stevenson explained that the men had to lie in the field hospitals in their khaki uniforms as no provision was made for supplying the field hospitals with clothes. It was contemplated that the sick and wounded would be sent back to the base. In Bloemfontein every building was taken which was capable of being worked by the *personnel*. He admitted that there was a shortness of utensils, milk, bedding, etc., and overcrowding in the general hospitals. There was also a lack of drugs and utensils in Kroonstad and Pretoria for a short time. He had permission from Lord Roberts to purchase everything obtainable, and he spent thousands of pounds. He denied that he had refused to take the Palace of Justice in Pretoria.

He advocated an increase in the medical corps in regard to doctors, nurses, etc., and the establishment of small stationary hospitals rather than large general hospitals.

Two civil surgeons spoke well of the hospitals in Johannesburg, but a dark picture was drawn by Miss Boyle of the state of things in the Jewish School Hospital for the first three weeks.

The *Times* also publishes a letter forwarded by Lord Hatherton, from an English gentleman serving as a trooper in an irregular cavalry regi-

ment in South Africa, in which the following passage occurs:—

"Concerning the hospitals and Burdett-Coutt's statements, I have not read through all his accounts, but I can assure you, from what I have seen and experienced, the field hospitals at those and different bases are far, very far, from what they ought to be where the private or trooper is concerned.

"I do not say it is the fault of the doctors or nurses; God forbid; but it is with the orderlies and non-commissioned officers—in one word, it means tips. Tip an orderly or sergeant and it is wonderful how the machine works. Put a half-crown in the slot. I have seen it myself. I will give you many instances verbally when I see you.

"One thing I must say. Remember there are three hospitals out here that are above all that sort of thing. I mean the Scottish, the Irish, and the Imperial Yeomanry (Lord Iveagh's). The Scottish, at Kroonstad, it matters not who you are or what you are, it is all the same. I cannot speak too highly of them" (? it), "as I was there for a few hours. The other two I have heard are just as good."

With regard to the treatment of English prisoners taken by the Boers, the following is part of a report forwarded by Lord Roberts and issued by the War Office:—

"The inhuman treatment of the sick prisoners throws the greatest discredit on the authorities at Pretoria, who must have been aware that proper hospital accommodation and equipment had not been provided, that suitable food and medical comforts were not forthcoming, and that the supply of medicines and medical appliances was wholly insufficient."

In conclusion, the Commander-in-Chief says: "The efforts of Doctors P. H. Haylett and R. von Gernet to ameliorate the condition of their patients, and the assistance rendered by the gentlemen mentioned in the latter's evidence, prominent among whom was Mr. J. Leigh Wood, officiating manager of the Natal Bank at Pretoria, are the only gratifying features in this correspondence.

"On the other hand, it would be difficult to condemn too strongly the conduct of Dr. H. P. Veale, M.B. (Cambridge), whose heartlessness in ignoring the disgraceful treatment of the sick prisoners, and the remonstrances addressed to him by the medical officers in immediate charge of them calls for the severest reprobation."

Which was it?

The *Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery* tells the following story of Sir William MacCormac. Often, to save time when studying in his laboratory, he used to have a light lunch served there. Once his assistant heard him sigh heavily, and, looking up, saw the doctor glaring at two receptacles on his table. "What is the matter?" he asked. "Nothing in particular," was the reply; "only I am uncertain whether I drank the beef tea or that compound I have been working on."

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