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**Editorial.**

**THE NURSING OF SICK SAILORS.**

THE unpreparedness of the Army Medical Department to deal effectively with the care of the sick and wounded in a big war has been forcibly brought home to the public during the South African campaign. It is therefore unpleasant hearing that the Navy Medical Department is in the same condition only "more so," for in the course of the papers read before the British Medical Association at Cheltenham, in the Navy, Army, and Ambulance Section, it was stated that, so far as organization for the medical care of the sick and wounded in naval actions was concerned, the whole thing was in a state of chaos, and that the weaknesses of the Army Medical Department, lately disclosed by the strain of warfare, are as nothing compared with the unpreparedness of the Navy with regard to arrangements and appliances. It is something that we know our weaknesses, the next thing is to overcome them, and we hope that the Admiralty will take to heart the object lesson provided by the War Office, and make the necessary arrangements for war in time of peace.

At present it appears that in the modern battle-ship there is no place provided for the accommodation or treatment of the wounded. In the old wooden battleship the "cockpit," which was below the water-line, and approached by a wide hatchway, used to be converted before action into a surgical station. With the introduction of the ironclad the cockpit disappeared, and now the captain and medical officer together select the place they deem most suitable for the reception and treatment of the wounded. It would seem that the whole question of an efficient Navy Medical Department needs consideration. The medical officers connected with the Department at present would, no doubt, willingly provide the Admiralty with valuable suggestions as to the necessary provision for the accommodation and treatment of the wounded in naval actions, and, as regards a Navy Nursing Department, the Admiralty has already before it the comprehensive memorandum furnished by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. It would be well advised to take counsel with experienced medical officers and superintendents of nursing, and to make such arrangements at the present time as will be equal to the strain which would be imposed upon it in warfare.

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