

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

URGENCY CASES HOSPITAL, BAR-LE-DUC.

This hospital, which is under the management of an entirely English fully trained staff, is situated in the charming valley of Bar-le-Duc, surrounded by beautiful hills, and about a mile from the very old and picturesque town.

A member of the nursing staff writes:—

We left England early in March, fully prepared and equipped to battle with all the dangers, difficulties and discomforts of hospital work in the field and were not a little disappointed to find that our work was to be carried out in a stationary building.

However, I soon realized that those who had left their work in England to go out and give their

I feel that this hospital is doing a great and valuable work.

We receive our patients, the majority of them very seriously wounded, at the stage when they most need intelligent care and skilled nursing.

They arrive in the ambulances (always accompanied by one of the surgeons) direct from the various dressing stations, and occasionally straight from the trenches, in a state of utter weariness, dirt and exhaustion.

They are carefully removed, always under the inspection of a surgeon, to the Receiving Tent, provided and equipped for the purpose, where all their torn and soiled clothes are taken, or cut off, the patients rolled into blankets and carried into the wards.

These poor weary soldiers then have a blanket



SISTER WISE.

MR. CAIRNS FORSYTH.

PATIENTS BEING REMOVED TO RECEIVING TENT.

best for the wounded French soldier, could not be better placed. The building, a military barracks in time of peace, is an ideal one for the purpose, containing 7 wards (112 beds) all on the ground floor, large, light and lofty—an excellent operating theatre, and X-Ray room and apparatus.

The rapid preparation of these bare wards for the necessities and comforts of seriously wounded men was a very arduous and difficult task, particularly with regard to cupboards (curtained packing cases), light, water, sterilization, &c., offering great scope and opportunities for the ingenious.

When completed (within a few days), we had a formal inspection by General Mignon (Commander of the 3rd Army in France) and his Staff, who expressed great pleasure and satisfaction at all the arrangements.

wash (complete when possible), are rolled into a clean bed, supplied with the much desired drink, and their wounds dressed, after which they almost invariably fall into a heavy sleep, in some cases remarking, "C'est mieux que dans les tranchées, je n'ai pas dormi depuis trois ou quatre jours," or "Je ne me suis pas couché depuis 8 mois."

It is remarkable what a large part this first treatment and uninterrupted sleep plays towards their recovery in spite of their often very serious and always multiple shrapnel wounds, bullet wounds, compound fractures, burns, &c., for in quite a few days they "come again" cheerful, deeply grateful, and always ready to lend a hand to their less fortunate comrades.

In all cases, when possible, the patients are carried outside on stretchers, or on their beds, and placed in the sunshine in full view of the

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