

AT Cape Coast Castle all the medical arrangements in connection with the expedition to Kumassi have been finished. They are of such a kind as to render this Expedition undoubtedly the most complete in respect of its medical equipment which has ever left England. The Bearer Company of the Army Medical Corps taken out by the *Coromandel* started to the front some days since.

From the advanced depôt down to Prahsu stages will be arranged at which 35 hammocks, together with the necessary carriers, will be stationed. By these means, the sick can be quickly transported towards the base to the number of 15 at a time, allowing five spare hammocks for casualties or extra cases. The carriers return each time to their original posts and will be utilised for bringing up light stores. At Prahsu a Hospital containing 60 beds will be organised by Surgeon-Captain Eckersley, and there will be also at Mansu a Hospital of 30 beds. At the base Surgeon-Major Wilson has charge of the Hospital, and he will draft off his sick into the *Coromandel*, the Hospital ship.

A LATE Army Sister, who has seen active service, writes:—

"Madam,—I observe in your issue of the 14th December, in your most interesting sketch of Sister Gray, that you remark 'that on active service it must be borne in mind that the active Nursing of the sick is performed by orderlies, superintended by the Nursing Sisters.' This is, of course, true to a certain extent, but both in our military Hospitals, and especially on active service, the Sisters do take part in the actual Nursing of our sick soldiers, although I am of opinion that the patients who are severely ill would be better nursed by women than men, as in our civil Hospitals.

The routine in a military Hospital is much as follows: In military Hospitals the Sister comes on duty later than the ward orderlies, who hold much the position of staff Nurse in a civil Hospital; he, aided by the convalescents (if there are any in the ward) fetches the coal for the day, makes the beds, gives water to the patients who wash in bed, sweeps and dusts the ward, and does all emptying, cleans the bath room and scullery. When the Sister comes, she takes the temperatures, pulse, and respiration, gives all medicines due, and sees each patient; reads the report of the night Sister (or orderlies where there is no night Sister), and enters all particulars on the charts; gives any stimulants or nourishments that may be due; then she often has bad cases to wash, helps the orderly make any beds that require special care. At about ten the medical officer comes round, accompanied by Sister, ward master and orderlies.

Each patient who is up stands by his cot. The medical officer writes up each man's diet a day in advance; they are on much the same scale as in a good civil Hospital, and each man's is sent up sepa-

ately. He gives directions as to Nursing, dressing, and applications to the Sister, and writes fresh prescriptions and repeats mixtures, and orders all necessary supplies from the surgery and sees the admissions. When he has gone, the orderly makes a list of the diets, and takes them to the cook-house with each man's basin or tin needed for his dinner. He then takes the prescription book and bottles to the surgery.

The Sister, in the meantime, has been carrying out the doctor's directions, giving stimulants, beef tea, &c., that may be due. Then, unless taken away for drill, kit inspections, or parades, the orderly helps the Sister with dressings, poultices, inhalations, and fomentations, and does any rubbing that may have been ordered. The Sister takes the temperature of fresh admissions, the orderly gives them a bath, or, if necessary, washes them in bed, brings up the stimulants and lemons, and beef for special beef tea or meat juice.

The Sister then holds a class of instruction for all orderlies in her division who have recently entered the service, gives 'before meats' medicines, the orderly brings up the dinner, and then goes to his own, and the Sister at the same time goes to her dinner or lunch. At two p.m. the Sister returns to her patients, gives medicines, stimulants, changes poultices and fomentations, the orderly probably being busy giving in kits, or he may be taken for a lecture or parade. At three he brings up the extras; such as beef tea, puddings, and milk from the cook-house.

The Sister writes all directions in a book for the Sister on afternoon duty, and is off duty, unless it is her turn to be on for the afternoon, until six p.m. The orderly gets up the teas, and goes off duty at five p.m.

The night duty is usually done by three orderlies. Night specials, as they are called, are only detailed in the wards where there are bad cases who cannot be left; they do day duty as well as night, and change every two and a-half hours through the night. At other times the duty is done by a corridor orderly, who visits the wards occasionally. A ward master, or non-commissioned officer, also mounts duty each night, and sees that the men are at their posts, and all orders carried out.

When no special is mounted in her wards, the Sister does the whole evening's work herself—giving medicines, nourishments, stimulants, taking temperatures, doing dressings, and the usual routine of drawing sheets and making beds. If she wants assistance, she sends for the corridor orderly. She writes all orders in a book, and the night Sister, where there is one, or the ward master, where there is no night Sister, is responsible for the carrying out of these orders. Such is a rough sketch of work done in a military Hospital.

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