

(5) Why no apparatus for the application of the Röntgen rays was carried, and whether there was not reason to believe that some lives of wounded officers and men might have been saved had these appliances been available.

Mr. Brodrick, in reply, stated (1) that the British Brigade was fully supplied with chloroform and anæsthetics, and that there was an ample reserve at Wady Halfa. There was no reason to suppose there was any deficiency at the battle of Atbara.

(2) That no British cavalry were employed in the reconnaissance. The medical arrangements for the cavalry who were present rested with the Sirdar.

(3) The stretchers provided for the British Army have not, so far, been provided with covers. A supply of stretchers with folding hoods is on its way out to Egypt. The wounded at the battle were carefully placed in the shade, and only removed after dark.

(4) That the ward in the Citadel Hospital at Cairo, in which seven wounded officers were placed, was large and lofty. Every attention was being paid to the men who were wounded in the recent action. The nursing staff consisted of five female nurses, and over 60 men of the medical staff corps, who were trained as nurses.

(5) That the Röntgen Ray apparatus is a very recent invention, and very difficult to adopt for field service, and was not carried with the field army. The medical authorities do not consider there was a single case in which life could have been saved by the use of the apparatus. Two sets are now in Egypt, and one more will be sent out shortly.

It appears to us a most fortunate occurrence that the battle of Atbara should have been fought in a place where shade was obtainable, as this is by no means usual in a desert, and in any case it is hardly wise to count upon battles being always fought in shady places. At the same time, the plan of storing the wounded—even if it be in the shade—until evening, is scarcely a commendable one.

There is rumour that a wealthy patriot has offered to finance the department for the care of the sick and wounded in the coming campaign, and to equip a thoroughly efficient nursing service. It is also rumoured that the Government have refused the offer, but failing an explicit declaration to this effect on the part of the authorities responsible, we must regard this rumour as incredible.

The Under Secretary of State for War has been subjected to considerable questioning on the Army Medical arrangements, recently, for Sir Edward Hill has also been enquiring whether there is any ground for the allegation that soldiers, who had the misfortune to undergo the loss of an arm, or a leg, in the service of the country, were allowed to leave hospital without being supplied with artificial limbs. Mr. Brodrick replied that artificial limbs have hitherto been supplied to soldiers at the discretion of the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital. However, Lord Lansdowne considers that in every case where persons have lost a limb in the service of their country, an artificial limb should be furnished at the public expense, and that a regulation would consequently be issued on the subject. The public will, we feel sure, be of one mind, that the sooner this regulation is brought into effect the better.

HOSPITAL STORES.

An ingenious scheme has been propounded by Mr. Thomas Farrow, by which he claims that our hospitals may be supported for the future by contributors who shall be not only pleased and happy, but voluntary, subscribers to these institutions. His suggestion is to raise capital, and devote it to the erection and running of "Hospital Stores" on the same lines as those of the Army and Navy Stores and other Co-operations, and that all the profits realized by these stores over five per cent. should be declared every year to the Hospitals. This scheme, Mr. Farrow believes, would ensure the deficit of £50,000, which the London Hospitals are perpetually endeavouring to raise, being met; and he believes that the scheme would be extremely popular with the public.

There is another important class of probable customers whom we do not see mentioned in Mr. Farrow's calculations, namely, the Hospitals themselves. If the class of goods supplied were satisfactory, surely all the Hospitals, which would be deeply interested in the financial success of the Stores, would be large customers, and the patronage of the London Hospitals would be no mean contribution to any new undertaking; in fact, the success of a venture with such a *clientèle* would, we should say, be assured. We shall be interested to know if the idea "catches on." If so, we hope Mr. Farrow will receive the prominent voice in its management, to which his idea entitles him.

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