

care the sick are entrusted, shall have received, or at least be willing to receive, thorough training in their duties under fully qualified persons. The Nurses of Vienna have combined to form a "Nurses' Protection Society"; so far, so good. We hope that part of their programme will be to raise the standard of the personelle of the nurses, who are apparently, at present, taken in Vienna from the lower and ignorant classes, and also to make the work performed by them so satisfactory and valuable, as to render their services indispensable.

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GENERAL SHAFER, in a recent report on the Sanitary condition of his force, states that the number of sick had increased to 4,279, including 3,406 cases of fever. The new fever cases numbered 696, and the fever patients who had been restored to duty on the 28th, 590. There had only been one more death. Brigadier-General Sternberg, Chief of the Medical Department, fully appreciates the seriousness of the situation, and is forwarding doctors and nurses to Santiago faster than ever.

There are also many cases of typhoid among the troops stationed at different points in Florida, especially at Miami, where there are now 7,500 volunteers under canvas, among whom malarial typhoid is very prevalent. Owing to the inadequate facilities for proper sanitation there, Mr. Alger, Secretary of War, has ordered the camp to be transferred to Jacksonville.

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ACCORDING to a despatch received, General Lague has sent 500 Spanish wounded to the hospitals at Gibara, requesting the United States authorities to take charge of them.

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AMERICAN trained Nurses are now being hurried to the seat of war, and *sub rosa*, they say not before time, the number of nurses requisitioned at first by the Army Department was not nearly sufficient, and the trained nurses in the States consider that they have been somewhat "snubbed" by the powers that be. The fact is, many inexperienced women, no doubt full of enthusiasm, have been told off for active service over the heads of the efficiently trained—a course which cannot be too strongly condemned.

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THE Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American National Red Cross lately received a letter from C. H. H. Cottrell, who is with Miss Barton at Santiago, which does not give the impression that the medical department of the American Army is in an efficient condition. The letter says: "All the Army officers received our advances politely but rather stiffly, at first de-

clining any aid, but eventually confessing that they had nothing but Army rations of hog meat, hard tack and coffee with which to feed their sick, and that they would accept 'a few things to help them out,' until their own supplies arrived. But they declined all offers of nurses and doctors.

Refused by our own people we next called on General Garcia of the Cuban Army and we were most cordially received, his medical men being only too glad to accept all we had to offer. So the next morning our four Red Cross nurses and Sister Bettina went over to the Cuban hospital, which was as repulsive and forbidding a place as can be imagined, and began to work. The house and patients were astounded and transformed with such a baptism of soap and water as never was heard of before in this benighted region, and by afternoon the little hospital was one clean spot in the town, and scoffers became believers, and Army officers became gentlemen who doffed their hats to our demure drab little women, who believe that cleanliness is the first step to healthfulness.

That little bit of practical work spread through rank and file like wildfire, and before nightfall our poor Boys in Blue, who had been lying on the floors, many of them without even a blanket, were asking each other and their slovenly male nurses how it was that the Red Cross came down here and gave them the go-by, and put the Cubans on beds with soft pillows and blankets and clean sheets. Of course such vigorous kicking, and the terrible contrast between the Cuban and our Army hospitals, could have but one result, and the Army surgeons are now willing and eager to have us on any terms we may suggest, and are constantly asking for more than we are prepared to give. We have opened a Red Cross hospital here, and have twenty-four beds, which is the capacity of the hospital.

Commander McCalla, at Guantanamo, sent us word the other day that there were a number of poor Cubans in his camp who were in need of help, and asked us to bring him five thousand rations. We steamed up there the same day and issued seven thousand five hundred pounds of substantial to those people, and returned to Siboney at once. We have received another requisition from the same officer for twenty-five thousand rations, and yesterday we returned to Guantanamo prepared to deliver fifty thousand, but Commander McCalla said he had no place to store so large an amount, and he therefore requested us to leave only ten thousand which we did.

The United States authorities were entirely unprepared in medicines, food, or service, to handle wounded men, and the Red Cross has proved a perfect Godsend, and, as you will have seen by the telegrams that have been sent you,

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