

Society were ill of the fever, too, and had to be nursed for a long time instead of being able to nurse others."

It has been said that Miss Barton refused to distribute food except to the ill and wounded in the tents. I wish to say that this is not true, she gave to all who needed it, making no distinction, and she did a vast amount of good.

During the fight at Santiago she went to the front in person and with her own hands ministered to the wounded and well alike. She made coffee and prepared food and gave them to the men who were fighting to relieve their hunger and weariness, and in many hundreds of instances soldiers who would otherwise have fallen from exhaustion and heat owe their lives to Miss Barton's aid. She never hesitated to expose herself to fire, and at one time she spent twenty-four hours at this work with no rest."

The condition of the *Concho* on her return excited much indignation. The statements of Samuel McMillan, formerly President of the Park Department; Dr. Lesser; Lieut. M. A. Batson, of the Ninth Cavalry; and Captain John Q. Anderson, of the Thirty-third Michigan, would seem to leave no room for doubt that the *Concho* had, indeed, arrived home in disgraceful shape. Much weight was attached, not only in Red Cross circles, but generally, to the testimony borne by Dr. Lesser. He is known to be a man who weighs his words, whose veracity is scrupulous, and who, on account of his connection with the Red Cross, and the tendency to friction between that organization and the Medical Department of the army, would be more than commonly careful to be exact as to his facts before saying anything which might seem to reflect in the remotest degree on that department, and to refrain from speaking even then, unless it seemed to him to be a public duty to speak. Dr. Lesser was so far moved from his habitual reticence that he said frankly, that the water on board the *Concho* was putrid; that there was no ice; that there was an insufficient number of physicians and nurses, and that there was no proper food for sick and convalescents. He added that what was true of the *Concho*, however, was true also of the conditions generally in Cuba, where men in the hospitals were lying on the ground, and without proper provision of nurses, ice, or food.

It is considered among the members and supporters of the Red Cross that army mismanagement must have been exasperatingly great when Dr. Lesser was stirred into making so sweeping a statement as the foregoing, concerning the conditions in Cuba.

Additional testimony is that of Lieutenant Stagsdall, who had yellow fever at Santiago, and returned on board the *Concho*:

"The conditions on board the *Concho* defy description. I don't like to recall them. In going

on board the *Concho*, however, we preferred, as we supposed, the lesser of two evils, for we knew that the supplies were limited; but how limited we had no conception. 'Limited' describes the condition at Santiago generally.

We had at least a fighting chance on the *Concho*, We took it.

If it had not been for Dr. Lesser and the Red Cross nurses on the *Concho*, there would have been sixty deaths instead of six. On the way up, Dr. Lesser and his associates gave us all the supplies they had with them, and their personal aid, and we are all grateful to them. That's all I have to say at present."

Who is to blame for the lack of organization, of provision for the sick, and efficient nursing? Five hundred nurses were ready to give their gratuitous services to the sick and wounded, and in the face of evidence which is continually coming to hand, they may well demand to know why their services were not accepted. Public opinion will doubtless demand a complete investigation.

Sketches.

AN APPOINTMENT UNDER THE POOR LAW.—THE MORAL.

NURSE: "Well, I shan't try to do my duty any more. I went to ——— fully intending to do it, and I *did*, to the best of my ability; but its no use, you don't do a bit of good, and you only get a bad name for yourself. Next appointment I get, I shall look after my own interests, and if I see things going wrong, well they must go. If you only let things slide, you can have a very comfortable time under the Poor Law."

ON PLAGUE DUTY.—THE SISTERS' BUNGALOW.

Scene I.

Sister off duty, retires for afternoon siesta, and after putting a tiny lock of hair into a "Hinde's curler," hoping to appear with a captivating curl at tea time, settles down for a comfortable time.

Scene II.

A visitor is announced out of due season. A Hindoo magistrate who has come to pay his respects. Sister hastily arranges her hair so as to hide the "curler," and hurries on to the verandah to greet her visitor.

Scene III.

The flow of conversation is interrupted by an unlooked-for incident. Native magnate leans forward with dilated pupils and uplifted hand, and finally makes a sudden spring and a grab at the "curler." "Excuse me, madam, but will you permit me to remove that CATERPILLAR?"

Tableau. Explanations.

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