

the services of her staff as well as needed supplies, as instructed by Miss Barton. The physician in charge very courteously answered that he had been ordered to go to the front the following morning, and, not needing anything, thanked the Red Cross for its offer.

Westward from the landing-place was a pool of stagnant water. Tents were around it, as everywhere. Upon a little hill across a railroad track stood a number of wooden cottages. The first large one, which seemed to have been some kind of a store, had a filthy barn westward from it, which was pointed out to us as another hospital. It was the same house which latter was used as a post-office, in which Postmaster Brewer contracted yellow fever, but which was never used by the Red Cross. There were a number of sick soldiers lying around on the floor, Surgeon-Major Havard being in command. I made the same offer to the Major as I had made in the first place, and, the condition of affairs being apparent, I tendered him the services of the Sisters, as well as cots and blankets for the sick; for which he thanked us, adding that he would accept the cots and blankets, but that he did not require nurses. I invited him to the *State of Texas* to see Miss Barton, so that he might select such articles or service as he desired.

From there I went with the staff to Dr. Virano, surgeon-in-chief of the Cuban Hospital, making the same statement and offers to him. He introduced us to General Garcia and his staff, and thankfully accepted the offer of the Red Cross. His patients were lying on cots and on the floor, little care, apparently, having been given to put the house in fit and proper condition. This ended our duty of the evening, and we returned to our ship.

The next morning, June 28th, Major Havard, visited Miss Barton on the *Texas*, as also did a Cuban delegation; the former made a request for cots and the latter for the assistance of nurses and food for the sick. Sister Isabelle, Sister Minnie, Sister Annie and Sister Blanche, under the direction of Mrs. Lesser, went to the Cuban Hospital, taking with them proper nourishment for the sick and utensils for preparing the same. The work of relief then began at the Cuban hospital, and beds and blankets were sent on shore for Major Havard.

#### FIRST HOSPITAL ESTABLISHED.

The next day, June 29, I returned to the shore with the Sisters, whose work and value had been observed by others. Siboney, with a large water supply and a sea-breeze, was selected for the reserve divisional hospital of the Fifth Corps. Surgeon-Major La Garde, of the Regular Army service, was the chief of the department. His supply was small, and conveniences still smaller, which, he said, was owing to the fact that through

military necessity medical and hospital supplies of the Army were still on the transports, with no means of unloading. There were but few hospital tents, and the cots in them were occupied by a number of patients, in whom Dr. Fauntleroy took great interest. I offered the services of the Red Cross as directed by the President. The Major, a man of humane ideas, unable to get such supplies as were needed, accepted any reasonable aid that he could receive.

Our offer came at a moment when we could be of help. Surgeon-Major Havard, with his staff, had been ordered to the front, and was unable to place the cots we lauded. His patients, who were suffering from typhoid fever, measles, and other diseases, were transferred to Major La Garde's camp. Battle was expected every day, and the Major, in order to be as well prepared as possible, accepted the offer of assistance made by the Red Cross, and placed a house at our disposal to serve as a hospital. He addressed a formal letter to Miss Barton, who answered at once in kind words and deeds. We also immediately sent word to Miss Barton describing our requirements. The sisters cleaned the muddy house, then disinfected it. Miss Barton sent from the *State of Texas* cots and bedding, food and utensils. In a few hours our house was disinfected and in order, and about thirty patients were carried to it; most of them had typhoid fever and a few had measles.

The night of July 1st, however, our work had to be changed. The Major called for all assistance possible to attend the wounded, who were arriving from the battlefield of Santiago. Large numbers of the wounded were brought down, and many of them walked miles with wounds in their arms or other parts not preventing them from walking. Men with bullet wounds through their lungs walked and crept for hours to get to the hospital. There were hospitals nearer the front, but all seemed to have been overcrowded by the work of that day, and many soldiers had lost their way in the undergrowth and wandered about until they found the nearest road to a hospital. Many walked because they complained that the rough roads and rickety wagons increased their pains with every jolt.

#### OPERATIONS LASTED NIGHT AND DAY.

Surgeon-Major La Garde's management can never be too highly praised. The wounded men that came down in the wagons were examined by him, and laid somewhere to be comfortable until they could have attendance. By "comfortable" I mean as far as the situation would permit. Every surgeon and nurse was put to work. Mrs. Lesser, Sisters Isabel Olm, Minnie Roogal and Blanche McCorreston were called to assist at an operating table, and Sister Annie McCue and Mrs. Trumbull White were left in charge of the hospital building.

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