

condition, and their outfits, appliances and general stores are subject to regular inspection by a royal inspector. Complete regulations are made for the various departments of aid needed for the army, and in time of war each society knows exactly where it has to go and what it has to do. Their regulations are not, like ours, meant apparently to make it impossible to find out where authority lies, but there is a direct chain of authority and responsibility from the Kaiser down, one might say, to the floor-washer. The Red Cross societies build and maintain, in the different towns, civil hospitals where they receive the poor and where they train their nurses. The women who enter to train as Red Cross Sisters do so on the same general plan which I have described as being characteristic of Germany, viz., the modified sisterhood plan. They do not look forward to independent work, but give themselves over to the control and uses of the societies. They receive their living, clothing and small—very small—salaries. In time of war they are sent to the military hospitals, and in time of peace they are kept employed in the civil hospitals, or are sent out to private duty, the society receiving their earnings. When they get old they are tucked into some easy berth or live on their little pensions as best they may. They are not bound to remain with the Red Cross societies, but they are not eligible for war service if they leave. There is no staff of women nurses attached to the army in time of peace, but should a soldier be seriously ill and need skilled care, the military authorities simply send for a Red Cross nurse. The Government pays nothing for the services of these nurses. As the Secretary of the Central Committee said: "We exist to help the Government; not to have the Government help us." Many women living in their own homes and possessing means take a partial training in the Red Cross hospitals, that they may take a helpful part in time of need, and I have been told that in times of epidemics, when the trained "Sisters" are all needed for emergency work, these women have taken their places in the routine hospital work.

Of all American women and even, I might say, of all American men, Miss Clara Barton is the best known and most deeply respected in Germany. She went through this German training and through the Franco-Prussian War. She is familiar with their system, and they all follow her course as the head of the American Red Cross, and recognize her as one who has rendered great service to humanity.

It is now easy to see why one cannot readily become a "Red Cross Nurse" at home. We have no such system as this on the Continent, and thorough and admirable as it is, it would

be both impossible and undesirable to introduce it in our country, for it is based upon an autocracy which we hope to leave behind. It would take from our nurses all that freedom which they have attained, and return them to the conditions of the Middle Ages. We can nurse our army either by a purely volunteer service, or by a paid skilled service based on voluntary agreement and contract, but not by women who are simply a part of the properties and the outfits of the relief associations.

The spring exhibitions which are given in the large cities by the Red Cross societies are said to be exceedingly interesting. They show models of all their outfits, hospital tents, stretchers, surgical, medical and housekeeping appliances, dressings, clothing, etc. I was not fortunate enough to see one of these, but in a small exhibition I saw a nurse's outfit, which American nurses may like to hear described. A printed list accompanied it, headed: "A Sister's Trunk with Complete Equipment for War Service," giving a list of the articles required, which were as follows:—

Three chemises, 3 prs. drawers, 3 night gowns, 2 flannel drawers, 2 flannel shirts, 4 prs. black stockings, 12 handkerchiefs, 2 towels, 1 hygiene corset, 1 flannel skirt, 1 cotton skirt, 4 white linen aprons, 2 grey linen aprons, 1 rubber apron, 1 rubber collar, 2 prs. black gloves, 2 prs. boots and shoes, 1 pr. gaiters, 1 pr. overshoes, 1 moire skirt, 2 wash dresses, 1 black dress, 1 dressing sacque, 1 money bag to wear about the neck, 1 mantle with cape and collar, 3 fichus, 1 sewing case containing thread, needles, bobbin, pins, safety-pins, scissors, buttons, thimble, tape, darning needles and cotton, hooks and eyes, patches for mending; 1 writing pad, 1 wine flask, 1 note book, 25 postal cards, 1 hand glass, 1 toilet case, holding soap box, comb, brush, nail brush, tooth brush, with powder box, sponge and sponge bag, clothes brush, 1 wash bag, 1 round cushion of drilling to fill with bran or chopped straw (like a rubber ring), 1 small pillow do., 1 spirit lamp, 1 lantern with candles and matches, 1 case, holding glass, fork and knife, spoons, scissors, knife with cork-screw, twine, hammer and nails, thermometer, red and blue pencils, temperature charts, 1 hat, 2 caps, 1 coat, 1 blanket, 1 umbrella, made to fold up; 1 knapsack with surgical outfit.

All these things, with the exception of the knapsack and the clothing worn, are to go into this very small steamer trunk, and everything was there, down to the last pin!

That's the way they do things in Germany!

The knapsack contained a complete outfit for "First Aid," and is carried, if necessary, on the nurse's back.

L. L. Dock.

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