

in the private hospitals as compared with the others. There were a large number of enterics dealt with in the private hospitals and in the others, and the Commission should inquire into the percentage of deaths. He said that if as good attendance and equipment had been provided in the military hospitals as in the private hospitals a great many lives would have been saved. Then he considered that the general hospitals should have been planted outside the town rather than being massed together in a congested space, and if that could not have been done they ought to have taken the buildings. He had witnesses to state that at Woodstock the dining table was used for an operating table, and at Green Point Hospital they had nothing but bully beef. They had neither corn flour, arrowroot, nor Bovril, nor anything. The Army Medical Department could be much improved if it were given more elasticity. The *personnel* of the Army Medical Department was undermanned, and there was no system by which the deficiency of the *personnel* could be supplied.

Sir W. MacCormac, said he, was in South Africa from November to March, saw as much as possible of the working of the hospitals in Cape Colony and Natal, and his general impression was that the arrangements were admirable, and would compare with those of any previous campaign in any part of the world. He described the working of the field hospitals at Colenso. He thought that in a very trying time the medical men had met the duties imposed upon them under circumstances of extreme tension with complete success. War was a cruel thing, and its object was not the care of sick and wounded, but the winning of battles. In his opinion, the medical conduct of the campaign was exceedingly good.

Several officers were examined, and expressed their satisfaction with their treatment in hospital. Captain Adam (aide-de-camp to the Indian Division) was shot on October 20 near Dundee, and was 12 days with the Boers. He was in the Intombi Hospital, near Ladysmith. He heard no serious complaints as to the care of the sick and wounded.

As we are all aware of the terrible suffering entailed upon the wounded at Intombi during the siege, and that it is a fact that hundreds of men died of starvation during those sad months, this evidence is somewhat surprising.

Lady Champion de Crespigny said she went to Bloemfontein on March 31st, where her boy was wounded. The doctor ordered wine, but they

could not get it unless they bought it themselves. Her boy said he would not buy it; he ought to be cured at the Government expense. In coming down from Bloemfontein to Cape Town there was not any food in the train, and there were nine wounded officers without any one to look after them. They did not get any food supplied by the authorities. She got them tea at one station and food at another. The situation of the hospital at Cape Town was terrible. She thought the doctors should have more power to get the things they ordered for the patients.

On Wednesday, 1st August, Mr. R. O'Callaghan, F.R.C.S., Surgeon-in-chief of the Langman Private Hospital, spoke of the supineness and dilatoriness of the military transport officers, and said they placed every difficulty in the way of the Army Medical Department. The St. John Ambulance Corps did very well, but they were untrained, and what the patients wanted was nursing.

But the excitement of the day was the presence of Mr. Rudyard Kipling, who was invited to tell his own story in his own way—and a very graphic way it proved. In visiting the hospitals, he first approached the official doctors, and was told they had everything required. Then he went to the nurse, and found the patients needed pyjamas—"but don't bring them to the store issue department, bring them to the back door." So 98 pairs of pyjamas were procured and unloaded, smuggled in at the back entrance, and given to this naughty little nurse.

To continue, Mr. Kipling said:—"I went to another hospital and I asked the same question and received practically the same answer—that it was not any good taking it to the officials, but if I would quietly bring pyjamas and also slips they would feel much obliged, because the nurses said there was a difficulty in getting pillow-slips or pyjamas. I also had the same answer from the nurse of a hospital train. There were three hospitals which I visited in February before there was any strain, when the doctors gave me to understand that they needed nothing, and they were exceedingly well pleased with themselves."

Mr. Kipling also went to another hospital, and found the drug cupboard was bare. So he went to the druggist and sent in drugs direct, and dodged official red tape in the same excusable manner. "These drugs," said Mr. Kipling, "were sent privately, because the general impression was that it was the better and more expeditious way to get them in. It was all done

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