

of good orderlies, but they were not properly managed. The supply of milk was insufficient; tinned milk was substituted for fresh, and although the milk was obtained from several sources, it was never sterilized.

Enteric Fever originated in Hospital.

"No proper means was used for disinfecting the linen. After being taken off a typhoid patient, it was placed on a convalescent with only a wash through cold water. The drainage was also bad. The very natural result was that typhoid cases actually originated in this beautiful No. 1 Hospital. Utensils of every kind which had been used for typhoid patients were indiscriminately given to other patients. Now there was no reason whatever why any of these disgraces should have existed. There was plenty and to spare of everything if it had been allowed to be distributed.

Army Doctors.

"With a few exceptions the Army doctors were a low class of men. They neglected patients under their care, were unacquainted with the most elementary sanitary rules, and abused their authority in a way that can only be realised by those who, like myself have had for many months a daily experience of them. The Army doctors were not supervised, and they did pretty much as they liked. It is a bad system and when badly administered by bad doctors there is really no redress. The civilian doctors did all in their power, but they were really unable to get the necessary redress.

"Six cases of drunkenness amongst the Army doctors came under my observation. After they came in contact with the police they were sent home in charge of invalids on transports.

"An attempt has been made by the Army doctors to place the blame of insufficient stores on the Army Service Corps. The allegation is wholly untrue. In the whole of this mismanaged affair, the A.S.C. has been the only well-managed thing.

Maimed for Life.

"Every one from the trooper to the officer have suffered all alike. My youngest brother was left for ten days without having his knee set, and he is now maimed for life. Colonel Ivor Herbert, Lord Roberts's A.A.G. at Cape Town, had a narrow escape. He was given thirty times as strong a dose of poison as he ought to have had, and it almost killed him.

"At No. 2 Hospital things were better. There was no difficulty in distributing medical comforts.

"Woodstock Hospital was, perhaps, worst of all. If the wisdom of the medical profession had sought to create the most promising focus for typhus and such filthy diseases it could not have improved on Woodstock Hospital.

Nobody's Business.

"I heard from trustworthy authority of a case at Bloemfontein where men were turned out of bed to make room for more serious cases, and left on the railway station for a day and a night because it was nobody's business to order an engine.

The Commission.

"I went to General Forestier-Walker, but he refused to interfere. I have intimated to Lord Justice Romer that I wish to give evidence before the Commission on its return. The appointment of a Commission is a step in the right direction, but the danger now is that

owing to various causes, the Commission may now become not a court of stringent inquiry, but merely the means of hushing up scandals and allaying public anxiety. It will be extremely difficult to obtain evidence from people in hospitals, owing to the system of intimidation prevalent there, and apparently almost inseparable from their military character. Impartial employees, such as nurses and civilian doctors, have long known that for them to complain meant dismissal. When I left, some attempt was being made at an improvement, because the Commission was going out, and probably by this time many abuses will have been stopped. But why have they waited till now?"

The following extracts are from an account, published by the *Daily Chronicle*, of an interview with Mr. Herbert A. Perry, late Corporal in E Squadron of the Rhodesian Regiment:—

After the Fight.

"I got my first experience of Army medical treatment after the fight at Rhodes Drift, where three men were wounded. When we brought them in the orderlies, who belonged to the Cape Town Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, were having breakfast, and could not think of attending to the wounded until they had finished. We had to wash the men's wounds ourselves, and scrape up what little food we could amongst us to give them a meal. Luckily one of the fellows had had a few private things sent down, and we managed to give them some tinned fish and Bovril. The stuff the orderlies gave them they could not drink. It was hot water, pepper and salt, coloured with Bovril.

Short Rations for the Wounded.

"When we got back to Tuli we found our wounded lying on the floor, and being fed on sodden 'cookies,' bully-beef, and rice, and very little of that. The orderlies were sleeping in the ambulance waggons and on stretchers. At this time there was not the least reason why they should have been short of food and medical comforts. Julius Weil could keep his canteen well stocked, so why shouldn't our authorities have been able to get everything they wanted for a hospital that never held more than fifty men? It seems to me that they were trying to work it on the cheap all round. In fact, the sick had to depend on their officers and chums for the little dainties they had. We got permission to draw the wounded men's rations, cook them, and take them to the hospital. You see the orderlies had such hearty appetites that the patients did not get much of a show."

Brutal Orderlies.

"Surely the orderlies were supervised?"

"In a way," said Mr. Perry. "There were five of them, a sergeant, two corporals, and two privates, quite enough to look after fifty men if they had done their duty. Then there were convalescents to help, and they could always call in a couple of troopers if there was a bad case. Yet I have seen a typhoid patient walking about with only a blanket round him—delirious of course—and nobody to look after him. As for sanitation, the less said about that the better. The orderlies played cards and whistled. If anybody complained of the noise, they were told to 'dry up.'"

"But the doctors; had they no control over the orderlies?"

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