

found them. There were enteric and dysentery cases, and some of them were in a filthy state, and too ill to get up. It was impossible for the orderlies to get through the work at these tents. Some of these men had lain in this pitiable condition for 48 hours. The men were lying on the ground. There were not sufficient marquees to put them in. When the men were convalescent they were sent to the base—they had to clear them out to make room for others. He could not speak more highly of the doctors, nurses, and orderlies, and though no doubt there were black sheep among them he never came across any. The sick in the marquees were well looked after, at any rate he never heard of a complaint. Though the marquees were short-handed there was no absence of medical comforts or equipment. Some of the men in the bell tents were semi-conscious, at any rate very ill indeed. He saw every hospital in Bloemfontein. There was certainly one cause of complaint—viz., the want of fresh milk. None of the hospitals had a sufficient supply of milk—some none at all—and it could be had at his club for porridge and tea and at the three hotels at any time. A proclamation should have been issued that no private consumer should be allowed to buy milk, and he knew that fresh milk could have been had. A trainful of men was sent from Bloemfontein to Cape Town, with one doctor, and no orderlies at all. At midnight the stink was so appalling that they had to get a nigger to wash out the carriage. They were overcrowded, and as all the empties went to Cape Town there was no necessity for any overcrowding. The poor men had no bed utensils, and in fact some of them were too ill to use them. It was on the suggestion of Dr. Conan Doyle, as he learnt afterwards, that buckets were put in the carriages for the invalids.

Mr. Treves could not imagine a *bona fide* basis for a real complaint, considering that they were at war, and although Mr. Treves insisted upon taking his own two nurses up to the front, and telegraphed home eulogistic accounts of their work after Colenso, he said it was impracticable to have female nurses in the field hospitals; some of the orderlies were good, and some indifferent, but it must be remembered that they had to fix tents and dig trenches *as well as nurse the sick*, and they did very well! They were lamentably short of utensils.

One cannot help pausing to wonder if Mr. Treves would consider that his private operation cases would have no *bona fide* cause of complaint, if he provided the nearest navy to attend upon them and carry out his nursing treatment!

A Corps of Volunteer Female Nurses For Service in the Army Hospitals in the Field, with Suggestions as to the Incorporation of the Nursing Profession.

By Surgeon-Major G. J. H. EVATT, M.D.,
Army Medical Staff.

WE are indebted to Surgeon-General Evatt, Principal Medical Officer to Her Majesty's Troops, Western District, Devonport, for a copy of scheme for the formation of a Corps of Volunteer Female Nurses, drawn up by him and submitted to the Army Medical Authorities in the year 1885, and which he was also good enough to submit to the Royal British Nurses' Association in 1894.

Although drafted fifteen years ago, so thorough and able are the suggestions it contains, that, with very slight alteration, it could be easily adapted to the nation's needs at the present time, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the War Office will avail itself of General Evatt's advice, when re-organizing the Army Nursing Department.

Next week we intend to publish the suggestions as to the Incorporation of the Nursing Profession made at the same time by General Evatt, which prove the grasp he has of the whole nursing question.

THE SUGGESTED SCHEME.

It is proposed to enrol a Corps of Volunteer Female Nurses for service with the English Forces in any foreign war, or with the Volunteer Forces in case of any invasion, to supplement the existing Nursing Sisters now employed in the Army Hospitals.

Such a Corps would be formed on the lines of the ordinary Volunteer Regulations.

The Nurses would be chosen from fully trained and disciplined female nurses already serving in great Civil Hospitals, and who have undergone a distinct training course in a recognized training Institution or Hospital.

They would in peace remain so employed, but would be enrolled in a Corps, graded in seniority, assembled periodically for lectures on their army work, and probably paid the same Capitation Grant as is given to ordinary Volunteers, for the purpose of defraying the cost of clothing, and the up-keep of the Corps, although this is not important.

I. *Age*.—A definite age would require to be fixed, so as to ensure active women only being employed.

II. *Physical Fitness*.—A certificate of physical fitness from an Army Surgeon would be

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