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AMBULANCE DOGS.

Miss Bowser has a very interesting article in the *Temple Magazine* on the work of dogs and their work in the Army. As to the kind of dog best adapted to ambulance and other work in the battlefield the writer says: "Provided that you take a dog with a broad head, of an intellectual race, and that you are in the habit of training animals, you can make him do almost anything that you please." Absolute obedience is the first principle in which the soldiering dog, as the soldier himself, must be trained. He is then "provided with a neat little saddle, with a pocket on either side, in which are placed all kinds of lint and bandages, and slung round his throat is a flask of brandy. On the outside of the saddle pockets there are two conspicuous red crosses, which should protect the dog from molestation by the enemy." And thus equipped he starts on the mission for which he has been carefully trained, and which is to carry assistance to the wounded.

When the battle is over and the firing has ceased the ambulance dog is let loose:

"The animal makes straight for the bushes with a businesslike air that is very funny to watch. From tree to tree he hurries, sometimes snuffing the air, but more often running with his nose to the ground, scenting, until he comes on the wounded man. Then he calmly sits down to await the arrival of his master and the stretcher-bearers, who will be guided to him by the bell which is hung upon his neck."

As the soldiers of an army which employs ambulance dogs are taught where to look for bandages, a wounded man can easily avail himself of the help thus brought to him, especially as "the dog understands precisely what is going on and meekly stands close up to the man to enable him to reach the pockets."

Another interesting part filled by the "Army dog" is that of doing outpost duty:

"The outpost dog is taught *not* to bark upon observing the approach of a stranger. On a still night he will detect footsteps at a distance of 400 or 500 yards, and on seeing or hearing anything suspicious he makes no kind of remark on the subject, but turns tail and trots into camp, to "inform."

Miss Bowser says further:

"The average dog takes about eighteen months to train, and in the German Army each one has to pass an examination before he is put 'on the strength.' Thus they can be depended upon almost absolutely, for it is exceedingly rare that

a trained dog will play his master or his orders false. The only reason that pointers cannot be used for this work is that their natural love of sport is too strongly inherent in them, and they could not be depended upon, if they happened to come across the chance of a good chase, as they would probably forget all about their work and go flying off after their own pleasure. But the steadfastness of collies and sheepdogs is not to be feared; they are faithful and valiant, sticking to their duty with conscientiousness, and fighting to the death in a manner that gives a fine example to their superiors."

Another Plea for State Registration of Nurses.

Maria Williams, a short, demure woman, attired in the garb of a hospital nurse, pleaded guilty before Mr. Garrett, at the South-Western Police Court last week, to stealing by means of fraudulent pretences several valuable gold watches. On July 19th she entered a jeweller's shop at 153, South Lambeth Road, occupied by Mr. Walters, and asked for a double-cased gold watch, worth £25, which she said she had left to be repaired. The watchmaker was absent, but his wife, believing her statement, which she supported by some circumstantial details, allowed her to take the watch away. Subsequently the watch was claimed by the real owner, and information respecting the fraud was at once given to the police. It was Mrs. Walters herself who was the instrument of the prisoner's arrest. She happened to be riding in a brake in Clapham Road when she saw the "nurse" coming out of another jeweller's shop. She at once alighted and gave her into the custody of a passing policeman. At first the prisoner denied all knowledge of the affair, declaring that she was a genuine nurse and that a mistake had been made. Other charges of a similar character were also made against her by Detective-sergeant Hawkins, and as the evidence accumulated, and when she heard the wardress from Wormwood Scrubs read out her previous convictions, including a six months' imprisonment record for stealing clothing, she decided to plead guilty. Detective-sergeant Bell, of K Division, said he had known the woman for some time. She was not and never had been a nurse, but was a married woman living apart from her husband. She had been many times convicted, and on one occasion there were forty cases of robbing children brought against her. Mr. Garrett remanded her to consider what sentence he should inflict.

We have received the following letter from Miss A. Churchill-Taylor, Lady Superintendent

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