

Annotations.

FIELD HOSPITAL WORK.

An interesting paper on the "Amalgamation of Bearer Company and Field Hospital as a Military Unit," was read last week at the Royal United Service Institution by Staff-Sergeant H. Stapleton R. A. M. C. (Volunteers,) who said that the subject dealt with in the paper was a proposal to amalgamate a bearer company and a field hospital into one medical unit. At present they were two distinct units. The purpose was to add to the mobile bearer company, such hospital establishment as would enable it to give shelter to the wounded in addition to its present work of first aid and immediate surgical treatment on the field. He would call such an amalgamation a First Field Hospital. The lecturer pointed out that the theory which underlies medical Army work is that the soldier when wounded in action should immediately receive first aid, that then he should be removed to the dressing station and receive skilled surgical aid, and after that be conveyed to a hospital. At present however the bearer company and the field hospital are under different commands, and there is therefore no assurance that the bearer company who bring in the wounded man will be able to give him shelter, as the field hospital may or may not have arrived. The proposal made by the lecturer was that four or five of the ambulance waggons which are always emptied when a battle is likely to take place should be loaded with field hospital stores which would be taken out when the location of the First Field Hospital Camp was selected. Thus no increase of transport would be required, and if a Field Hospital arrived, it would be prepared to render not only first aid and first treatment, but a fair amount of hospital treatment also. The benefit to a wounded man would be immense if he could be got under some sort of cover, and be given even one blanket and waterproof sheet. The most rapid collection of wounded, was well worth organizing for, particularly if skilled surgical aid could, close at hand on the battle field, be rendered by a First Field Hospital, and shelter and nursing be provided to those whose first dressing was sufficient for the time. A large amount of suffering was at present caused by exposure, and efficient surgical work might be neutralized by a further journey to a field hospital. As the chief cause of this

extra suffering was the absence of shelter, this defect of organization should be rectified.

HORSE AMBULANCES FOR LONDON.

We learn with pleasure that the London County Council proposes to provide systematically for the metropolis, up-to-date horsed ambulances for the conveyance of the sick and injured to the hospitals. This is a reform which has long been needed, for existing arrangements are of the most obsolete description.

YOUNG AND DELICATE CHILDREN.

Many of the children who are ordered to industrial schools are young, under ten years of age, and delicate, and as a result of various recommendations the London School Board has, through its Industrial Schools Committee, been considering the advisability of providing special schools for such children who are under nine years of age. Mr. Legge, his Majesty's inspector, urged, at a recent meeting, the necessity of this step, as well as a similar undertaking for boys over twelve years of age when committed. He suggested that there should be one or two schools in different parts of the country specially set apart for cases showing a tuberculous tendency, as such children were undoubtedly a danger in the schools to which they were admitted. On the other hand, it was very difficult to lay down a stringent rule that no child showing such a tendency should be admitted to an industrial school, or should as soon as detected, be discharged as unfit for industrial training. There was a general consensus of opinion nowadays that consumption, taken in time, was curable through the agency of fresh air and proper food. There could be little doubt that the general health of the schools would improve were a couple of special schools set apart for these cases. The committee recommended that a letter should be addressed to the Home Secretary asking if he would be prepared to sanction the provision by the board of a school or schools specially for the reception of children under nine years of age, either (in the event of the London County Council schools being transferred to the board) (a) by the utilisation of the buildings at Mayford, or the provision of special accommodation at the Feltham Industrial School, or (in the event of the London County Council schools not being transferred to the board) (b) by the provision by the board of two new schools, one for boys and one for girls.

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