

### The Central British Red Cross Society.

The Report of the Central British Red Cross Society dealing with the work of voluntary organization in aid of the sick and wounded in South Africa has now been issued in the form of a Blue Book. In 1897 the absence of any central organization of Red Cross Societies in touch with military requirements was pointed out, and in 1898 it was determined to form a permanent Central Red Cross Committee for the British Empire and its dependencies, and to ask the Secretary of State for War to recognise the Committee officially. Later, the then Secretary of State notified his official recognition of the proposed committee, which was made public by a communication to the press, and though the work of this Committee was not sufficiently advanced to enable it to ascertain accurately the resources of the country when the South African War broke out, the Committee decided to meet weekly, and did so until March, 1901. The aim of the Committee when offers of help, applications for appointments as nursing sisters, and quantities of stores from philanthropic firms were contributed, was to prevent overlapping and undesirable competition. The money placed in the hands of the National Aid (British Red Cross) Society in the form of subscriptions or donations, or collected by the committees of private hospitals, amounts to £500,000, and was obtained without organized arrangement for collecting subscriptions. In all, it is estimated that the voluntary aid resources placed at the disposal of the sick and wounded of the Army must have amounted to close on £1,000,000.

We are glad to note that the Central British Red Cross Committee have at length arrived at the conclusion that the best organization of voluntary aid resources for this country would be the formation of local committees in time of peace. This seems a most patent fact, yet it is one which the Committee has been slow to learn. The Report goes on to explain in detail the work which such committees might perform. With regard to the provision of private hospitals in time of war, it instances the Portland Hospital as an excellent example. Private hospitals, it is held, should be limited to 100 beds, and be attached to, and work in conjunction with some of the larger military hospitals. The Society is of opinion that the equipment and maintenance of such hospitals would form suitable schemes of voluntary aid for bodies or individuals, not necessarily connected with seaport or manufacturing interests, in connection with which other work is suggested, or with counties and county towns.

### The Medical, Surgical and Hygienic Exhibition.

#### DRUGS.

Amongst some of the most prominent exhibits at this interesting exhibition, which pressure on our space last week prevented our mentioning, the stand of Messrs. Cooper & Co., 80, Gloucester Road, South Kensington, S.W., must be noted. The reputation of Messrs. Cooper & Co. as Pharmaceutical and Mineral Water Manufacturers stands high, and there was ample demonstration at the Exhibition that this reputation is well deserved. Their Oxygenated Mineral Waters deserve attention, the special feature being that the depressing and lowering

effects of the Carbonic Acid are counterbalanced by the stimulating properties of the Oxygen. They are prepared with organically pure distilled water.

#### FILTERS, ETC.

The Berkefeld Filter Co., Ltd., 121, Oxford Street, W. (Stand 71), showed the filters which are supplied to H.M. Government for the use of the troops in South Africa.

Messrs. Defries & Sons, Ltd., 146, Houndsditch, E.C. (Stand 53), showed the Pasteur (Chamberland) Filter.

The Gem Supplies Co., Ltd., 121, Newgate Street, E.C. (Stand 104) showed their pure water Still, as supplied to H.M. Government. This Still separates all impurities from the water treated by it, requires little attention and no experience, and produces about a quart of distilled water per hour.

#### AERTEX CELLULAR UNDERWEAR.

Lastly must be mentioned the Aertex Cellular Underwear (shown by the Cellular Clothing Co., Ltd., 73, Fore Street, E.C., Stand No. 11), which is both hygienic and dainty. Aertex Cellular is warm in winter and cool in summer, owing to the non-conducting air in its meshes, is easily washed and does not shrink, it is light, comfortable, and non-irritating in wear, it is practically a supplementary skin, retaining warmth, and permitting free evaporation.

### Treatment of Tuberculosis in Germany.

In the course of an article on "A Model Sanatorium," contributed by "A. M. E." to the *Charity Organisation Review*, some particulars are given of the sanatorium about fifty miles from Berlin, which was built from funds raised from among the many wealthy inhabitants of Berlin. It is situated at Belzig, a quaint deserted-looking little town altogether typical of the district. The surrounding country is very exposed and flat, the soil is sandy, and the villages few and far between. Cornfields are to be seen on all sides, and those large tracts of pine forest, which are so characteristic of the Mark Brandenburg. The sanatorium itself lies in a hollow surrounded on all sides by pine trees, while gently undulating paths run through the prettily-laid-out grounds, which are some sixty acres in extent. Many of these slopes are artificial, and were constructed in order to shelter the buildings from the north, north-west, and north-east winds, no unimportant matter in this exposed country. The buildings consist of the following:—(a) The main hospital in the centre, with accommodation for ninety-four patients of both sexes, paying 3s. 6d. a day (a few pay 5s. a day for a single-bedded room); (b) on the right is the "Samuel Bleichroder Stiftung," with free accommodation for twenty-five patients of both sexes; (c) on the left there is the still unfinished children's wing.

All the bedrooms face south, and contain two, four, or six beds. Quite a few are arranged for

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)