

### Annotations.

#### A CONJOINT SCHOOL.

An appeal has been made for £100,000 in support of the Medical School of the London Hospital, to pay off its debts, and, we presume, to pay lecturers. Medical students pay a very fair sum for their education, and if all the little schools attached to the twelve London hospitals cannot be made self-supporting it is high time they should be superseded by a thoroughly efficient Central Medical School. The students' present fees would be ample to pay for the best teaching at the best price; but then numbers of officials and inefficient teachers would be given their *congé*. It is simply preposterous that enormous sums of public money should be squandered on maintaining these twelve little schools, none of which can possibly attain the standard of teaching required by students of medicine in the present day. Why don't these young men agitate for the necessary reforms and demand a Central College of Medicine? Space might be set apart for a Preliminary Training-School in nursing, and certain courses of study arranged for the instruction of the first year's pupils in both branches of the healing art, greatly to their benefit and to that of their future patients.

#### A NATIONAL WORK.

Colonel Bowdler, C.B., Chief Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, recently announced that after three years' effort he had at last got the Admiralty to establish an auxiliary Royal Naval Sick Berth Reserve, to consist of about sixteen thousand men drawn from the St. John Ambulance Brigade. In time of war they would be available to tend the sick and wounded on men-of-war and in naval hospitals.

The members of the St. John Ambulance Association have done much excellent work in rendering first aid to the sick and wounded. Its usefulness has been recognised just because it has worked within well-defined limits. But if it is going to undertake the national work of the nursing of sick and wounded soldiers and sailors, then the nursing profession and the public have the right to ask what education the Sick Berth Reserve will receive to fit it to undertake responsible nursing duties. It must surely be conceded that the defenders of our country are entitled to nursing care which is as skilled and efficient as that bestowed upon the sick poor in our general hospitals and workhouse in-

firmaries. It therefore behoves the St. John Ambulance Association to show that the men of the Sick Berth Reserve are qualified as nurses as well as in rendering first aid.

It is interesting to note Colonel Bowdler's statement that during the late war the Association supplied 2,000 hospital orderlies, and so prevented the complete collapse of the Army Medical Department. The significance of this statement, namely, that this Government Department was saved from complete collapse by a voluntary and amateur society, cannot be over-rated, and is the best comment on the lack of organisation on the part of the Committee of the Army Nursing Service Reserve, now abolished.

#### CRUELTY CAMP.

Not the least terrible of the incidents of the late war was the suffering inflicted upon animals by the Imperial authorities by placing them on an area of the veldt totally inadequate to their maintenance.

A correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* relates the sufferings of large quantities of valuable horses forced into a protection camp in the Albert district of Cape Colony in the early part of 1901. At this time the Boers were raiding the Colony, and it was necessary, as far as possible, to prevent horses falling into the hands of the raiders; they were also collected with a view to providing animals for the British Remount Department. The correspondent asserts:—

"Eight thousand animals were placed in a camp four miles from Burgersdorp, the area of which was 3,000 acres. The veldt, poor to begin with, had already been grazed over, and, moreover, had been 'trodden out' by the troops. In short, it was practically bare. Under the very best conditions it would have maintained some 800 sheep for three months. The results of the almost incredible ignorance which considered it sufficient for the support of ten times that number of horses and mules may well be imagined in far more terrible detail than I should care to set down in cold print.

"A peculiarly malignant feature of this unreasoning brutality—really there is no other adequate term for it—was the compulsory removal to the camp of the foals and mares with foals at foot, which could not possibly have been of any use to the fighting Boers, already amply supplied with horses, unless they wanted to eat them. Had they been left on the farms they would at least have formed a nucleus from which a fresh start in stock-raising could have been made. But the iron law of this blind military despotism admitted of no exceptions, and ordinary humanity seems to have been beyond its ken.

"So efficient was the 'protection' that on more than one occasion the Boers went unmolested through the camp and didn't find a single animal worth taking away."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)