

Medical Department "knew all about the Red Cross Society, for instance, and they must have known that they would have the advantage of assistance from them. I do not understand you to mean that they put any impediments in the way of those societies' work?" the witness replied: "Yes, I think they did. I think they were jealous of the Red Cross Society from the very first, and impeded its usefulness as well as that of other voluntary agencies."

Voluntary aid should be admitted, organised, and utilised. In Germany a commissioner is appointed by the War Office, whose sole function is to organise voluntary aid. He arranges that it shall be taken advantage of in every way, that the funds shall be directed in the most useful channels, instead of allowed to find their efficiency in haphazard channels, and he arranges for the employment of ladies who wish to nurse, who wish to attend the wounded, who wish to undertake the correspondence of the sick and wounded, to organise refreshment stations for the assistance of men who are being transported by convoys or trains at every halting station; by this method the sick and wounded are provided with such things as clothing, food, and tobacco. Voluntary aid was wasted in the South African War because people did not know what to give. If they gave goods the chances were they were ill-selected and laid aside; if they gave money the chances were that it went to the Good Hope Society or the Red Cross Society, who were paralysed by want of organisation in connection with the Army Medical Department, and the money was really almost thrown away.

#### TRAINS.

With regard to trains, the witness was of opinion that it was of the utmost importance that trains should be provided for fever cases so that infection may not be needlessly conveyed. This might have been better done in South Africa if it had been well thought out beforehand. The trains were "as well done as care and zeal could manage, but they were not what they should have been. They were dreadful things for a man with a bad fracture, or even for a patient badly ill with fever, to go down some hundreds of miles in; and I suppose (added the Professor) you have been told that nearly all the cases of typhoid, which were transported when seriously ill, either died or had very serious complications, perforation, or hæmorrhage, from being transported in those trains.

"The hospital trains were good, but even they might have been improved in many respects with regard to the shaking. The other trains that were used to carry the sick and wounded (and only a small proportion of them were carried in the hospital trains) were very badly arranged for the purpose. There were convoys of

sick with dysentery and diarrhoea, and even typhoid fever, sent down by them, and sometimes there was no water in the train, sometimes even orderlies were absent. The carriage latrines were utterly unsuitable, no water even sometimes in them, and sometimes the wounded were transported in improvised trucks. Hardships must occur in war, but it made one very sad to see a man getting his leg and his elbows and his head knocked about in a springless truck when he was ill and suffering, and perhaps wounded; it was very terrible to behold." Probably the trucks had some springs, but they were such as would suit coals, not men.

#### TRAINING OF ORDERLIES.

Continuing, the witness urged the necessity for a class of men in the Army very highly trained, "so as to be on a footing somewhat equivalent to our Nursing Sisters," and pointed out that the duty of the medical officers consisted in supervision, and that it was impossible for them to undertake the management of the "thousand little necessities that the sick have."

Professor Ogston expressed the opinion that much of the inefficiency in the treatment of the sick and wounded during the war in South Africa was owing to the antiquated methods in existence at the commencement of the war in the Army Medical Department. He conceived it absolutely impossible that we could ever have a proper Army Medical Department in this country until our medical officers, and non-commissioned officers and men, are allowed to discharge daily in time of peace the duties they will have to discharge in time of war.

In regard to the orderlies, most of the cases they see in military hospitals in time of peace are those of venereal disease and trifling ailments; they should have a superior and more general training than that given to them at present.

#### NURSING SISTERS.

In regard to the employment of female nurses in the war, they were, said the witness, "at first refused, except perhaps at Cape Town; but they were of enormous value when introduced nearer the front. Both in the Soudan campaign and in the South African campaign the difference between a hospital where a woman had been introduced and one that was left to the orderlies was incredibly great. The eye told it at once upon entering—cleanliness, tidiness, care, with charts of temperature, all that was desirable, was carried out very much better where women were present."

While he recommended there should be a body of good, well-trained male nurses, he thought it of essential benefit that there should be also female nurses. The Professor said: "I do not think there is anything to prevent women going much nearer the front than has hitherto been assumed to be possible; if the proper class of women are enlisted,

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