

### Annotations.

#### THE RED CROSS CANINE CORPS.

In Germany, a society exists, called the "German Society for Sanitary Dogs," for the purpose of supplying trained dogs to accompany the army into the field. The new idea is already in successful operation, the animals being trained for deeds of mercy, requiring intelligence, devotion to duty, fearlessness, judgment, and affection. The work of the Society is centred upon rearing intelligent dogs to rescue and relieve, and to search out in deep wood and swamp, the wounded and the dying soldiers. Indifferent to storm and tempest, shot and shell, the Red Cross dog goes directly upon his errand of mercy, bearing a pack with the bright red cross on either side. The packages contain bandages with first-aid-to-the-injured, instructions for using the triangular roller bandage and styptic cotton, and the flask at the dog's collar is filled with restoratives easily obtained. It would require very little effort to introduce into our service this humane and commendable idea; it is one of the most popular public movements of patriotic intent in existence to-day. The mission of the Red Cross dog is to eradicate, so far as possible, the awful word "missing" from army records. In actual war, or even in ordinary manœuvres, the marching of armies extends over every conceivable formation of land; a wounded soldier, or one prostrated by hunger, or disease, or injury, may be forced to halt and become separated from the command—lost and practically abandoned. At the next roll-call, he is reported "missing." This is the man the intelligent Red Cross canine is taught to find, and, having found, to caress and awaken and offer his bottle of restoratives, which is suspended from his collar. From a packet marked with a red cross, and which is placed as a saddle upon the faithful animal, the wounded or injured soldier can obtain styptics to arrest bleeding, controlling rubber bandages to control arterial bleeding, or ordinary triangular or roll bandages to support and protect an injured limb. Upon a book or paper he can write a description of the location where he may be found, and give an account of his sickness, injuries or wounds which prevent his rejoining the column without suitable assistance. By a unique system, all this information can be recorded with the least possible exertion, even when the soldier is severely stricken. When the dog rejoins the

command, the message is found and suitably recorded, and instant relief despatched for the rescue. In some cases where the soldier, although sick or wounded, has merely lost his way, the dog acts as a guide to safety. Thus the dog has been made use of to second the efforts of the medical corps in a mission deserving of our best and most earnest consideration.

#### DECREASE OF CONSUMPTION.

Dr. Timbrell Bulstrode has presented some hopeful statistics upon the decrease of consumption in a lecture which he delivered before the Royal College of Surgeons.

In Prussia, the great decrease in the numbers of deaths from this disease is attributed to the marvellous growth in the commercial prosperity of Germany.

That the decrease is general may be gleaned from the following figures, showing the death-rates per 10,000:—

	1876		1901	
	General Death Rate.	Tubercular Death Rate.	General Death Rate.	Tubercular Death Rate.
The State .. .. .	256	81	207	19
Rural communities ..	246	28	206	17
Urban ditto .. .. .	276	86	267	22
Towns up to 20,000 inhabitants ..	270	85	219	21
Towns with from 20,000 to 100,000 ..	274	88	207	21
Towns with over 100,000 ..	295	85	198	25

A modified form of compulsory notification is in force in Saxony, and the death-rate per 10,000 from pulmonary tuberculosis has fallen from 23.1 to 16.8 in a quarter of a century. In Hamburg, a steady decline is to be noted.

In France, it is reported that the Parisian death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis has fallen from 43.7 to 39.4 in a decade, but in towns containing from 5,000 to 100,000 souls a slight increase is to be noted.

In Amsterdam, the rate has fallen from 27 to 17.7 in forty years; in Denmark, from 25.2 to 13.1 in thirty years; in Budapest, from 81.1 in 1875 to 38.6 in twenty-five years; and in Switzerland from 23.4 to 18.7 in a quarter of a century.

The rate of mortality from all forms of tuberculosis in Vienna has decreased from 83.3 to 52.9 since 1867.

In future, all cases of advanced consumption in Vienna must be reported in the same way as other infectious diseases.

The Council of the Hospital Saturday Fund advise that a sanatorium for London consumption patients should be established.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)