

THE HOSPITAL OF THE BRITISH RED CRESCENT SOCIETY AT SCUTARI, (CONSTANTINOPLE).

Whilst we were still making the beds up in the wards, our first patient was brought in by some of our own staff. A regiment had just come back from the front and had put the wounded man in a waiting room on the Galala Quay, pending the arrival of someone in authority to say to which hospital he should be conveyed. There he was found by our men, and the Red Crescents in their uniform carried weight with what officials there were, and their permission to take him to Scutari was thus obtained.

Poor fellow! His left foot was all but shot away, and displayed a large shrapnel wound which was also gangrenous and in a bad state from neglect, the injury having been incurred at Chataldja five days before. At first it was thought impossible to save the foot, but we persevered with iodoform kept under carbolic, which gave excellent results, and though Abdullah was our first, he is likely also to be our last patient, as nothing but time can heal a wound of such dimensions. He has got very fat and flourishes exceedingly, and is very proud and pleased to be our patient. He walks about on crutches and smiles on the world generally and is eager to display his knowledge of English picked up from us, and consisting of two or three words.

The next patients arrived in a batch of forty, having been brought in by boat to Haidar Pasha landing stage and after having gone through the process of disinfection, they were carried up to us. The process consists in spraying each man as he passes with some solution which the Turks use very freely, and which I can say from personal experience on my journey into the interior, where they subjected us to the like treatment on alighting from the trains, is not at all pleasant. On admittance the rifles and ammunition were taken from the men and stacked in a place provided for the purpose. Knives, money were also given up, the latter counted, and each man given a receipt for the amount in his possession, which is handed back to him together with his knife on his going out of hospital.

Those least wounded were dressed at once, whilst the more serious were put to bed. Each man had a cup of hot soup and a piece of bread. Then the work of examination and dressing began, and it was a terrible and gruesome job. On the whole they behaved splendidly, and bore pain without flinching, though some of the wounds were of a very ghastly description. As soon as his wound was dressed each man lay down, drew his blanket over his head, and was seen and heard of no more till his next meal time, when he sat up, ate his dinner ravenously, and went promptly off to sleep again, absolutely worn out and exhausted. As soon as their condition improved the necessary operations were performed. We

found them take the anaesthetics easily and well, being very quickly under their influence without fuss of any kind.

Our hospital is established in a Government school, and is well adapted to our work. We reckoned to take about sixty patients, and if very pressed, an extra thirty. The staircase is wide, and the steps shallow, making it easy for stretcher-bearers. The hall is large with a stone paved floor, and has a deep cement trough with a dozen traps, along one side, where it is an ordinary sight to see the patients squatting, each in his cotton hospital tunic, and washing his hands in the running water, so necessary to the salvation of a good Moslem.

The dispensary, store-room, staff dining-room, and male staff dormitory all open off the hall, which on wet days it is not unusual to find almost filled with the cooks, their retinue and their charcoal braziers, although our staff cook is the proud possessor of an oven at the end of the garden!

The wards for infectious and suspicious cases are also on the ground floor, and are so arranged that those attending on them have no communication with any other part of the hospital. On the first floor there is a big landing running the entire length of the building, with big stoves at either end. Here the dressings are done from 8.30 a.m. till luncheon at one. Forms are provided along the different sides, each with a table for the dressings and instruments, each surgeon having his particular side. Those patients that are well enough come out from their wards, bringing their bed-cards with them, and sit down to wait their turn, each on his own side.

There are five large wards opening off the landing, and one small one as well as the theatre, and the Director's office. The lavatories are of the kind familiar to every traveller in the East, but which fill the European mind with dismay when beholding them for the first time, and are in no sense ideal for sick men.

The theatre is well equipped, and though not large, is very convenient and well lighted. Instrument trolleys we have none, their place being taken by empty packing cases covered with white American cloth. Our own operating table came out with us, and all pertaining thereto. Sometimes we had four and five amputations a day.

The great demand of every patient was water. Each had a large glass water-bottle beside him, which was filled hourly, but still they would help themselves whenever our backs were turned from the large stone jar which was kept upstairs. This became a very serious matter with the dysentery and cholera patients, and it was necessary to place a special guard to prevent this practice.

Their meals are simple, and served in bowls with spoons or on plates without fork or knife, three times a day. They eat fish and meat with their fingers, but like a knife for their bread. Tea is a great luxury, and with milk added to it has become very popular, though this is contrary to the custom

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