

## NERVE CONCUSSION.

The War, too, has revealed an interesting series of cases which for the present must be called "nerve concussion," about the treatment and prognosis of which much has still to be learnt. When they occur in connection with the spinal cord they may be the result of a blow from a bullet or piece of shell perhaps no nearer than upon the pack which the soldier is carrying. There is no external wound, but the patient becomes paraplegic. Such a condition is analogous to "railway spine," though it is not associated with neurasthenia, at least, in the early stages which have come under observation at the present time. A similar condition of paralysis without any gross injury has been noticed in the arms and legs, apparently due to interference with the function of one or more nerve trunks, since exposure of the nerve does not show that it has been anatomically damaged. It is too soon yet to state whether recovery of function is the rule or the exception in these cases.

The mental state of the patient makes no difference to the rate of recovery. The English soldier, who is naturally sanguine, heals quickly in spite of suppuration; the Belgian is not far behind, though he is a prey to anxiety, because he grieves for his country, has lost sight of his relatives, and is in hospital in a foreign though friendly land. Like a brave fellow, he bears himself in sickness, as he does in health, with magnificent courage.

## SURGICAL METHODS.

The net result of the work appears to show that, as in ordinary civil practice, meddlesome surgery is generally bad surgery. Wounds need no longer be probed, drained, and packed. Tempered with discretion, it is better to wait than to operate unless the patient is losing ground. Considerable experience, however, is required to decide when to wait and when to operate, because injuries which appear slight superficially may conceal conditions that demand immediate treatment. Looking to the fact that the chief infection seems to come from the patient's own skin, there can be no doubt that antiseptic surgery is preferable to aseptic methods. Dry dressings must give place to compresses and fomentations wherever possible. Iodine applications seem to be more effective than the solutions of perchloride and biniodide of mercury which have been hitherto the more generally used. The youth and health of the patients render the prognosis even of severe injuries correspondingly good, and enable the surgeon to take waiting risks which might otherwise be thought hazardous.

## ACTIVE SERVICE.

## ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

The following units have been sent abroad:—

*To Rennes and St. Malo.* Anglo-French Committee. October 31st.—Misses Edith Ward and A. West (Matrons). Misses K. Harris, F. Davy, C. Mulliner, M. Templeton, P. Shackleton, M. Terry, R. MacManaway, B. Costello, C. Poole, Cockburn-Hughes, I. Linforth, E. Nicholls, C. Douet, F. Halliday, E. Hogan, A. Cordner, F. Carter, A. Ramsay.

Care of Mrs. Gordon Ponsonby, October 31st.—Miss F. Pease, Miss C. Henderson,

*To Dunkirk.*—To the Duchess of Sutherland's Party. November 2nd.—Misses F. Latham, I. Leitch, A. Moland, K. E. Williams.

*Anglo-French Hospital, Cherbourg.* To complete Mrs. St. Clair Stobart's unit. November 4th.—Misses Bright-Robinson, Cole, MacLaverty, Jones.

*To Dunkirk.* Church Army Hospital. November 9th.—Misses M. Waugh, B. Brewin, A. Walton.

The party left Victoria on Monday at 9.45 p.m. for Dover, where they slept at the Lord Warden Hotel and crossed next day in the Admiralty yacht.

## BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The following unit (XII) has been sent to Boulogne.—Miss Frances Hughes and Miss J. G. Macleod, Matrons. Misses M. M. Aitken, M. D. Allen, K. B. Atkins, K. E. Baker, G. H. Botterill, E. B. Corner, M. Coulson, I. Edwards, M. H. Fairweather, M. Fowler, H. Gammack, J. V. Gregory, M. I. Harrison, D. Homer, B. N. Jamieson, E. Johnson, E. F. Jones, A. M. Liddell, L. Mackie, P. M. Martin, J. M. Morris, D. G. Nicholls, M. C. Robertson, G. M. Turnbull, B. Quixley, M. Webb, A. Wherry, and M. Wright.

The following unit (IX) left for France on Monday morning with Sir Henry and Lady Norman and the medical staff for a hospital: Misses E. Bell, N. Bent, M. Brasier, K. Caldwell, M. N. B. Forrest, M. Forster-Elliott, M. Hart, M. Johnston, L. B. Kiddle, E. A. Knipe, I. N. Mackintosh, K. Morrison, F. Moulson, E. Pilkington, E. Paterson, J. Strachan, M. A. Thomas, E. K. Thompson, and J. Whittle.

## HOSPITAL SHIP.

The following seven Sisters and Nurses from the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, have been appointed to the *Grantala*, which has been commissioned as a hospital ship to go to the War:—Sisters Clouston, Colless, De Mestre, and Macmillan, and Nurses Burtenshaw, Kirkcaldie and Pearson.

The following members of the Nursing Staff of the 1st London General Hospital, Territorial Force Nursing Service, Camberwell, have been promoted to the rank of Sister: Misses Bompas, Brailsford, A. White, Preston, H. M. Smith, and Oldfield. Nine members of the staff are abroad, four on hospital ships, and five with the Expeditionary Force.

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