services to the French Government, which were accepted. He was detailed to the military hospital at Lyons, and in view of the research work he has done with reference to injured blood vessels and nerves, the wounded suffering from this class of injuries were referred to him; and by the application of the method he has discovered for suturing and transplanting blood vessels and tissue, it has (says *The Modern Hospital*), been possible to save limbs which would otherwise inevitably have been lost. Dr. Carrel has now been given special facilities as near as possible to the line of battle; and Miss Catherine Lilly, head nurse of the department of surgery in the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has gone from America, with a detachment of thoroughlytrained Red Cross nurses, to Compiègne, to assist him in the hospital provided for him by the French Government. For this purpose, an hotel has been requisitioned, with accommodation for 100 beds; and the Government will provide administrative officers, leaving Dr. Carrel free to perform his characteristic operations, and to conduct the laboratory studies which are about to be undertaken. In order that this work may be of the greatest effectiveness, not only at the moment, but also to the world of science, the Rockefeller Institute is equipping the hospital with complete apparatus for research in the bacteriological, pathological, chemical, and surgical conditions, which may arise. Associated with Dr. Carrel will be Dr. H. D. Dakin, a distinguished chemist.

In consideration of the circumstances of the present time, arrangements have been made for cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis and also of any other infectious fever, or smallpox, occurring among the troops quartered in or near London to be admitted into the Metropolitan Asylums Board's hospitals, as far as the available accommodation will permit.

The need for hospital provision for the sick and wounded expected in the country shortly still continues, and the Lewisham Infirmary; the Brook Hospital, Shooter's Hill, and the Orchard Hospital, Dartford, Kent, under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, are amongst those which will be utilised for this purpose.

From the American Journals, medical and nursing, it is obvious that Germany has made very thorough preparations in connection with its medical, nursing and ambulance arrangements; and the Hamburg Red Cross Society has provided a hospital train which claims to be the most perfect ever constructed. It is quite obvious that for many years, the military department has been making preparations for war with great thoroughness.

The University of Alberta has offered to the Militia Department a base hospital of 250 beds, for service either in France or England.

## DIEPPE.

## I-A PREAMBLE.

Life is full of contrasts, and the events of war follow each other so quickly that it is impossible for me now to relate how I was first destined for St. Malo, went to Calais, and finally

landed at Dieppe.

The horrors of war are comparative. Had I not been at Calais during the hottest days of the battle of the Yser I should not have considered Dieppe as a haven of rest and a golden nest of luxury, nor would I have understood the mental condition of those patients who, being less dangerously wounded, were sent on to us. Muddy . . . wounded . . . bleeding . . . How impressive for the public and for those who only see what meets the eye.

Those of us who nursed the French and Belgians and looked into the minds and souls of the patients saw more. We saw deep bleeding heart wounds, and we realised the mud of insults, of moral indignities which had been inflicted on their souls and minds. Yes, there was more to be done than to swab and bandage their wounds and

wash the mud off their clothes.

Our men are heroic. They have fought on unknown soil side by side with Allies whose language they knew not; they have fought not one to two, but at times one to seventeen. They have been mown down and continued under the fire of hell, and they have suffered patiently through the dark, dreary winter months of trench life, which have seemed like the Eternity of Hades—but the torture of our French and Belgian Allies has been greater.

They have seen their homes burnt down, their women polluted, and their children maimed and killed. Of the destruction of their universities, cathedrals, and works of art we will say nothing, as those are the common loss of civilisation. There is no need to recapitulate. I simply refer to these facts, because I wish to emphasise the extra need of psychological nursing which our Allies required—apart from the material help which, being invaded, they needed.

In many ways Dieppe responded to these requirements, as it was at some distance from the seat of war, and on the direct route to Rouen and Paris. Dieppe possesses a fine esplanade, bordered on either side by two beautiful cliffs. To the right stands the old citadel and castle (which was destroyed by the British and Dutch in 1694, and is now being restored by us), to the

left a church and semaphore.

All the hotels were requisitioned by the State and turned into hospitals. Unfortunately, Dieppe is a summer resort, and the central heating only reached the reception rooms and one or two floors above, thus making hundreds of bedrooms unavailable for use. It was strange seeing Algerians, Moroccans, and jet black Senegalese sharing alike with the French and Belgian wounded the gorgeous bedsteads in the highly decorated

previous page next page