

Derbyshire is attending upon him, who is all right, but not exactly an expert.

The cooking is often vile, but it depends to some extent on the quarter-master. In one case, a quarter-master secured quarters in a school, the cooking was good and the men enjoyed their food.

But if the man selected for battalion cook has previously been employed in greasing engines, or is lazy, and the utensil used for making soup is afterwards used for brewing tea you do not know if you are having soupy tea or teay soup.

At one time I was serving in a canteen, and we took something like £8 a week, which dropped at once when the cooking for the men was improved. The men need feeding, and Army cooks should be trained, and women supervise the feeding arrangements. The Army cooks are supposed to send out beef tea to the men who are ill in their billets, but it is by no means always appetising.

In regard to the washing, the men with whom we are dealing had been accustomed to a fortnight's training in the year. They took a supply of clean clothing, and took it home dirty at the end of the time, so the laundry question hardly arose. At present eight buckets are allowed to a battalion, which does not admit of a liberal supply of water for washing purposes. The men in private billets generally get looked after, but there is a great necessity for adequate arrangements for washing the clothes of those billeted in public buildings. Some of the clothes may be verminous, not necessarily because the men are dirty, but because they have come in contact with dirt, and they must be cleansed and their clothes cleansed.

This question of washing has not arisen before, as this is the first time the Territorials have been mobilised. The men billeted in public buildings and empty houses usually have no facilities for proper washing. In the houses of the better classes hot water is attainable, but drying is difficult and often objected to.

In the cottages where two or three men are billeted the women wash and mend for them, the men paying for the work. If the woman is clean and thrifty these men are best looked after in this particular respect.

Experience shows that while the majority of men get their laundry done somehow if left to themselves, a large minority are very slack.

A scheme has been devised, and is now working in one battalion, whereby women fetch the bundles of washing made up by the men at a certain fixed time every week. About eight to a company call at its headquarters and take away the bundles, and return them in four days, leaving time for the men to do minor repairs and change. They cannot bring back clean and take away dirty linen at the same time, as the men have often only a single change.

In regard to mending, we went to the Colonel, who hailed with enthusiasm the idea that we had people ready to do the mending, but all we ever got to mend were two pairs of socks and

a pair of riding breeches. You will never get Tommy to bring his clothes to be mended. Now the woman who does his washing in the back kitchen does some perfunctory mending.

When the men came into the town people began croaking and saying there would be an epidemic of immorality. As a matter of fact the morality of the town is on a higher level than a year ago. It seems the wish evolves the thought. People will insist we are living in a hot-bed of iniquity, and ask leading questions to almost make you say it is the case. Really the behaviour both of men and girls has been most admirable.

PERSONAL HYGIENE.

Dr. R. Murray Leslie, in an admirable address, said:—

The essential importance of personal hygiene in the Army is now universally recognised, and we are all aware of the magnificent results which have been achieved by the Army Medical Service and the Army Sanitary Department. In the present War, hygienic measures have taken a more prominent place than ever before, with beneficial results to our soldiers that it would be indeed difficult to exaggerate. A comparison of the incidence of typhoid fever in the present War and in the Boer War may be cited as an illustration. In the latter we lost more men from typhoid than from wounds; while in the present War the percentage of such cases has been relatively extremely small, partly due to anti-typhoid inoculation, but largely to the excellent sanitary precautions which have been taken. It is at the same time true that these results have been in great part the result of general sanitary measures, such as the careful attention which has been paid to the purity of the water supply and to the removal of excreta. I do not for one moment mean to imply that individual personal hygiene has been neglected, as general directions have been issued to the men, and individuals have in many cases been personally instructed under the supervision of the Field Ambulance Department. Nevertheless, it must be difficult without perfect organization to enforce the practical application of personal hygiene, as it must be almost impossible for the necessarily limited medical staffs to superintend all details, even with the assistance of their Field Ambulance Orderlies, who, however zealous and energetic, have not the requisite knowledge to deal with all emergencies.

When Mrs. Bedford Fenwick first brought up the question of the advisability of forming a new order of Sanitary Sisters, to be attached to the staff and to be under the direction of the Sanitary Medical Officers, just as District Nurses, who act as Health Visitors, School Nurses and Women Sanitary Inspectors, now act under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, it made one think; and such a proposal seems worthy of careful consideration.

It was Florence Nightingale who was mainly instrumental in introducing sanitary reforms into

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