

## CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

Major W. A. Chapple, M.P., M.D., R.A.M.C., sends to the *British Medical Journal* an interesting note of 71 out of 635 cases from the Dardanelles treated on a hospital ship during a ten days' voyage, including such grave complications as tetanus—the patient responding to treatment, and being quite out of danger on landing; a violent secondary hæmorrhage of the femoral artery; and an aneurism of the femoral five weeks after a bullet wound in the lower one-third of the thigh, necessitating amputation.

All the cases improved very markedly on the voyage, which was made in smooth seas. All were cot cases to begin with, but fully half were able to be on deck during the latter half of the journey. The surgical equipment was complete and as satisfactory as in any small modern hospital.

Only two cases, Major Chapple stated, would require further surgical treatment immediately—bullets lodged in the spinal column, producing grave peripheral symptoms. If smooth seas could be ensured, the conditions of surgical treatment would be as good as those of most base hospitals. In loyalty to the high example of the King and Lord Kitchener, no alcoholic beverage was given during the voyage, and no case arose suggesting its use to which the resources of the dispensary were not equal.

We are indebted to the kindness of the Editor of the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Gazette* for the accompanying illustrations. Writing in that interesting paper on the transport of the wounded from Gallipoli, Captain L. B. Cane, R.A.M.C., says:—

"Within three weeks nearly twenty thousand wounded were brought back to the base at Alexandria, and hundreds still arrive daily. Many of these were shot long before they reached the Turkish shore; some of the boats were sunk and others turned back full of wounded, with scarcely an uninjured man left on board to land.

"From the beginning the hospital ships have been quite insufficient to deal with such thousands

of wounded, and have had to be supplemented by the transports in which the troops went out.

"In some instances these refilled so soon with urgent cases that they returned to the base even before the last of their men and stores had been disembarked.

"Several medical officers from the field ambulances or other units were put on board each transport, with what orderlies could be spared. These worked night and day during the return voyage, but in spite of all exertions, found it often quite impossible to render more than the most urgent first aid treatment.

"Several transports returned with over 800 wounded, one with nearly 1,100, and one with 1,618, and in each only three over-worked medical officers, a few orderlies and no nurses, to do the entire work of an improvised floating hospital, full of surgical cases, during its two and a

half days' voyage back to Alexandria.

"By the middle of June more complete arrangements had been made, and a number of transports were fitted out for use as hospital ships, with staffs of four medical officers, six nurses, and twenty orderlies on each.

"The transference of wounded from the shore, often under fire, can be readily imagined. Often the men had had to drag

themselves, or be helped by less injured comrades, for about two miles to some rough dressing station, and were carried thence for some distance back to the landing boats and lighters on the shore.

"Then the transference through shallow water to the boat, the rowing or towage out to the transport or hospital ship, and the tedious slinging up by ropes over the ship's side of all who could not walk.

"Fortunately the sea has been calm or the work could scarcely have been done at all.

"One of my photos shows an officer (who had seven wounds and a fracture) being lowered over the side and narrowly escaping being tilted off the stretcher owing to slipping of the ropes.

"When the medical history of the war comes to be written there will probably be no chapter more interesting than that dealing with the



CORNER OF WARD, H.M. HOSPITAL SHIP "NEVASA."

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