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## EDITORIAL.

### OUR DUTY TO OUR ALLIES.

One of the ways in which Great Britain can give assistance to her Allies, because, by her geographical position, she is necessarily more remote from the War Zone than the other belligerents, is in the equipment of hospitals, hospital trains, and ambulances, upon which the saving of life, and diminution of suffering, and the efficiency of the armies so largely depends. To show that this country realizes her obligations and privileges in this respect, we may take a brief survey of some of the projects just now before the public.

First there is the scheme warmly supported by the British Ambassador at Petrograd for a British Hospital of 200 beds for Russia, a scheme which has the patronage of Queen Alexandra. Sir George Buchanan expressly states that he is authorized by the Russian Red Cross to say it is not so much the money but the equipment and personnel of a hospital that is wanted, and that the Red Cross will do its best to provide suitable premises.

It is also stated that one of the greatest needs of Russia is for motor ambulances, and the British Ambassador at Petrograd has appealed to the Royal Automobile Club to institute a fund for the supply of convoys of ambulances to which it has readily agreed.

Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Club, points out that Russia has played such a great and noble part in the war that we owe her this mark of our sympathy and gratitude. She has had to face single-handed the united armies of Germany and Austro-Hungary along a front extending from the Baltic to Bessarabia, and she has over and over again taken the offensive in order to relieve the pressure in the West.

Again, under the British Red Cross Society, and with the support of the British

Committee in Aid of the Italian Wounded, a unit of 20 ambulances has been despatched to Italy to work between the railhead and the trenches, travelling by road through France, and across the Alps to Turin.

Lord Gladstone is chairman of a committee formed to collect and administer a fund to be called "The South African Hospital and Comforts Fund" to supply hospital accommodation, either at home, or in France, for the South African contingent, which though so recently landed has already received substantial support.

A complete hospital unit, with the name of "The British Women's Hospital," is being organized by the Actresses' League, which it is hoped to offer to the French Government.

The needs of the Belgian wounded have appealed strongly to the Unitarian body in the north which recently sent a deputation to Belgium to report on the conditions.

This delegation reports that "Nowhere is there any sign of luxuries or even of the ordinary hospital comforts which we provide for our own men." Those Belgians are the luckiest who find themselves in hospitals in religious houses. It was found for instance in one religious house that the sisters had no beds and were sleeping on the floor. They said they had given their beds to the soldiers. Beds were sent from England for them, but on the next visit the sisters were still found to be sleeping on the floor. More wounded men had come in, and they had again given up their beds to them.

Lastly we may mention that as a consequence of the visit of Sir Robert Borden to France the Canadian Dominion Government has decided to provide a hospital near Paris for wounded French soldiers.

These are but a few of the evidences that this country and her Dominions are endeavouring to discharge the duties which the burden of the War has laid upon them.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)