

THE CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

On the continent portions of many Royal Palaces have been utilised as hospitals for the sick and wounded. In Russia and Italy beautiful saloons have been given up for this humane purpose, and the Tzaritza in Petrograd, and the Queen of Italy in Rome, are in personal attendance. The conservatory at the Royal Palace at Potsdam is also adapted for the wounded.

Lord Kitchener last week paid a surprise visit to the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth, and accompanied by the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Bruce Porter, went through all

wounds. At the present time many depots have been formed in England and Scotland for the supply of war dressings, and a scheme has now been started in various centres in Ireland for the collection of a variety of hospital dressings, standardisation being arrived at. It is proposed to send regular supplies of them to hospitals abroad, and particularly to Etaples, where the St. John Ambulance Brigade and numerous other hospitals have been built.

"*Sphagnum* now has been proved to be a cheap, comfortable, and effective absorbent dressing, having certain advantages over ordinary cotton wool. Its absorbent powers are great; it will absorb eight to ten times its own weight. This



THE CONSERVATORY, ROYAL PALACE, POTSDAM, NOW A HOSPITAL FOR THE WOUNDED.

the wards and departments and spoke to many of the men. He was particularly interested in the X-ray department, and the steward's store, and stopped to speak to convalescent soldiers who were walking or being wheeled about, and chatted with several who were going to a theatrical entertainment.

MOSS FOR DRESSINGS.

Mr. J. Lumsden, of St. John Ambulance Brigade, Dublin, writes to the press:—

"I wish, through the medium of your paper, to appeal to people living in the country in the neighbourhood of bogland to collect and supply us with bog moss, known as *sphagnum* (*cymbifolium* and *cuspidatum*), for which there is now a large demand, as an absorbent surgical dressing for

moss is found in moist and wet places, generally on moors, and in this country there is, I understand, a plentiful supply. It should be well dried by natural or artificial means—preferably by exposure to sunlight and wind. It can be readily dried, after wringing by suspension in coarse sacking-bags. Full particulars as to its collection can be obtained on application, and it is hoped that large and regular supplies will be sent to our joint depot here or to the depots being started in the provinces. It will then be put up in muslin bags of various sizes, and will be sterilized here before being sent out to the front.

"I have recently visited a large war hospital supply depot in London, where *sphagnum* is being largely used, and was told there that any quantity of the moss would be gratefully received. We,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)