

therefore, propose sending any surplus supply over and above our own needs to London. It is of interest to know that for the past thirty years *sphagnum* moss has been one of the standard absorbent dressings in the German hospitals. The demand for *sphagnum* should give our friends in the country an opportunity of assisting, in a practical way, our scheme for the supply of dressings for our gallant men so valiantly fighting at the front."

Our illustration shows one of the French horses being attended by the surgeons of the Blue Cross Fund in France. The Blue Cross Fund has been doing invaluable work for the wounded horses of our French Allies and is deserving of all support.



WOUNDED HORSE ATTENDED BY SURGEONS OF BLUE CROSS FUND IN FRANCE.

At the beginning of the War Our Dumb Friends League, of which Lady Smith Dorrien is the President, seeking a way to be as useful as possible, decided to place its organization and experience at the service of the French Army. The Secretary of the Blue Cross Fund is Mr. Arthur J. Coke, 58, Victoria St., London, S.W., to whom contributions may be sent.

It is indeed the irony of fate that the lovely Palace, the Achilleion, erected in the island of Corfu, by the late Empress Elizabeth of Austria, and acquired by the German Emperor, is to be taken over as a hospital for wounded Serbians. A more exquisite place cannot be imagined—we do we remember a glimpse we had of its beauty—having driven there one spring day between hedges of flowering roses, under a

cloudless sky of blue. Here we looked on a dwelling place in which it were easy to imagine the deities of ancient Greece taking their pleasure when weary of Olympus and the thunders of Jove. May the heroic Serbs be soon restored to health in the stillness of its marble repose.

The staff and patients of the Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Bear Wood, Wokingham, will be pleased to receive visitors on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, from 2 to 4 p.m.

### THE RED CROSS BUDGET.

The Report of the Joint Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society, and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, with a Statement of Accounts for the year ended October 20th, 1915, explains how £1,642,271 was spent on the sick and wounded.

The statement shows how different branches of the work appealed to different donors. Thus, while roughly half the contributions went into general fund, more than half a million pounds—almost one third of the entire year's income—was specifically directed to the "Transport of Wounded Fund," in other words, to the purchase and upkeep of Motor Ambulances.

It is interesting to note as an instance of the difficulties which beset the administration, that while some of the special funds have had to be heavily supplemented from the General Fund, others

have a considerable unused balance outstanding, and it is not surprising to find the Finance Committee pleading that their work would be simplified "if a larger proportion of our receipts came into the General Fund, rather than into earmarked funds."

The greater part of the money has naturally been spent abroad, and the heaviest item is for the "Transport of Wounded," that is, the Motor Ambulances: The sum expended on the purchase of vehicles was £446,400; to work and maintain them cost £169,562. By far the greater part of the fleet is working in France and Flanders, the remainder being distributed between Egypt, Malta, Serbia, Italy and Great Britain.

The report concludes with a warm acknowledgment of the Committee's obligation "to all who have enabled the work to be carried on.

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