

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

Lieut.-Colonel Tooth, C.M.G., Commanding Officer of No. 1 General (City of London) Hospital, T.F., has been appointed consulting physician with the Mediterranean Forces, and has left for Malta. Colonel D'Arcy Power is now in command at No. 1. We can but rejoice that the advice of so able and kind a consultant should be available for the sick and wounded of the Mediterranean Forces.

The nucleus of the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, of Sardinia House, Kingsway, was formed on the evening of August 4th, 1914, the very day of the declaration of war by Great Britain. The first task of the Committee was to help to bring wounded Belgian soldiers to England and distribute them in hospitals; since then the relief work has extended to many other spheres, and touches in one way or another all our Allies.

The Committee has maintained two Homes for Disabled Belgian Soldiers in England, where they have been fitted with artificial limbs and taught various trades to render them self-supporting, and it also keeps up a sanatorium at Eastleigh for Belgian soldiers suffering from phthisis; it has presented to the Belgian Army four bath-caravans for use at the Front, also a caravan soup kitchen to supply the troops in the trenches with hot tea, coffee or soup, and in addition two bath-caravans made on an improved plan and capable of furnishing seventy hot baths an hour.

In France the Committee is maintaining two hospitals for French soldiers, the one at Limoges, containing 225 beds, the other at Lyons, with 300 beds.

To the Russian Red Cross Society the Committee has given four motor ambulances, each containing four stretcher-beds, and to the Italian Army it is supplying the motor operating theatre, described in our last issue, the first of its kind ever constructed, that will enable urgent operations to take place at the Front and, it is hoped, save the lives of many wounded men who might otherwise die on their way to hospital.

Concerning relief work for Serbia and Montenegro, the Committee sent out a fever unit, consisting of doctors and nurses, to Serbia; and up to the time when the Austrians took possession of the country it was maintaining one large hospital in Kragujevatch and another in Podgoritz; and since the retreat of the Serbian Army has sent out fresh units with stores and provisions to Corfu, where a vast amount of work has been and is being done, attending to the disease-stricken remnants of the Serbian Army.

Also, in the first half of 1916, the Committee has supplied the hospitals of our Allies with over 175,000 articles, and it has equipped and maintained various hospitals and homes, at home and abroad, giving the relief that was needed when it was needed.

Last Saturday afternoon over 100 wounded soldiers from Hammersmith Military Hospital

were entertained by the Mayor of Hammersmith at his houseboat at Hampton Palace.

The name of Sir Philip Sidney has been handed down from generation to generation as that of a chivalrous knight who, in his own extremity, gave the water he was about to drink to another.

Mr. Philip Gibbs, writing from the British Headquarters in France, describes in the *Daily Telegraph* the conditions under which our troops have been fighting:—"For two days now," he says, "the sun has been blazing hot, and our fighting men have been baked brown. It is not good fighting weather, either for guns or men. . . ."

"It is hot and thirsty work, and painful to the spirit and flesh of men even along roads that are not pebbled with shrapnel bullets. Men on the march to-day were glad of frequent halts, and flung themselves down on the waysides panting and sweating, moistening their dusty lips with parched tongues, and fumbling for their water-bottles. They were lucky to have water, and knew their luck. It was worse for the men who were fighting yesterday in the same heat wave up by Waterlot Farm and further south by Maltzhorn Farm, not far from Guillemont. Some of them drank their water too soon, and there was not a dog's chance of getting any more until nightfall. Thirst, as sharp as red-hot needles through the tongue, tortured some of these men of ours. And yet they were lucky, too, and knew their luck. There were other men suffering worse than these, the wounded lying in places beyond the quick reach of stretcher-bearers. 'It was just awful to hear them crying,' said one of their comrades. 'It was 'Water! Water! For Christ's sake—water!' till their voices died away.'

"As usual, the stretcher-bearers were magnificent, and came out under heavy fire to get these men in, until some of them fell wounded themselves. And other men crawled down to where their comrades lay, and, in spite of their own thirst, gave the last dregs of their water to these stricken men. There were many Sir Philip Sidneys there, not knighted by any accolade except that of charity, and very rough fellows in their way of speech, but pitiful. There was one of them who lay wounded with some water still in the bottle by his side. Next to him was a wounded German, groaning feebly and saying, "Wasser! Wasser!" The Yorkshire lad knew enough to understand that word of German. He stretched out his flask and said, 'Hi, Mister, tak' a swig o' that.' They were two men who had tried to kill each other."

It is reported from Copenhagen that the Royal Danish Serum Institute has during last year produced and exported to belligerent countries large quantities of tetanus serum, which has been of the greatest value to wounded soldiers. It has also produced typhus serum with great success, having so far sent about 200,000 portions to different battlefields. The Institute is now producing cholera serum in big quantities for the Salonika front.

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