

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

Queen Alexandra, attended by the Countess of Gosford and the Hon. Charlotte Knollys, visited the sick and wounded soldiers at the Military Hospital, Endell Street, W.C., last week.

Mr. Forster, in reply to a question in the House of Commons last week by Captain Ormsby-Gore (Denbigh Dist., U.), said it was impossible to provide for hospital ships in Egypt to meet the Indian hospital ships, and patients from India had to be transferred to hospitals in Egypt until they could come on. There had been a shortage of hospital ships in the Mediterranean lately owing to the heavy requirements arising from the operations in France, but this had now been remedied.

The Y.M.C.A. Recreation Hut at No. 1 City of London Base General Hospital at Camberwell has proved a great success. It is, however, exclusively for the rank and file. The officers who are patients there have no sitting-room, or lounge, or any place of rest or recreation. The Lord Mayor is making an appeal for the sum of £700 for this purpose and has already received some substantial sums towards this amount. Donations can be sent to the Mansion House.

The cinematograph trade has raised a fund of £36,876 for the sick and wounded. This sum they have expended, partly in the purchase of 58 cars to be handed direct to the R.A.M.C. for use in Mesopotamia, and the balance of £7,353 they have handed to the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John.

Mr. Davis MacLaren Morrison, of Queen Anne's Mansions, has presented to the New Zealand General Hospital at Brockenhurst a 'bus for the use of convalescent soldiers.

Lord Northcliffe, in a vivid letter in the *Times*, writes from the Trentino front:—

"On my way back from the outer edge of the wood, well within the fire zone, I visited one of the Italian surgical mobile hospitals with an operating theatre that can be folded and carried by motor. It is used only for urgent stomach and head wounds that cannot bear delay or removal. A portable X-ray apparatus, a motor water-wagon carrying 500 gallons, four nurses, four surgeons, physicians, and orderlies complete the equipment. During the last two months 240 urgent operations have been performed. The hospital has 200 beds. It was given by the city of Milan and works under the Italian Red Cross.

"I have visited several other hospitals. All are in every respect modern, well staffed, and well equipped. The complete absence of flies is a remarkable feature of the Italian hospitals. I wish to call attention to the splendid work done by the British Red Cross hospitals near Cormons, to which are attached 24 ambulances. This and

other ambulance sections are highly spoken of by the Italians, who regard the British Red Cross activity as a pleasing manifestation of Allied sympathy.

"Lord Monson is in charge and Sir Courtauld Thompson is now on a visit of inspection and is highly satisfied. Much good work has also been done by the Fourth Section of the British Red Cross, which has a travelling X-ray car under the management of an English lady, Countess Helen Gleichen. Owing to hard work during the battle of Gorizia one car has been put out of action, but I suggest the provision of another car specially constructed for mountain climbing, such as is made by the Italian Fiat Company. The value of the work of the Fourth Section can be gathered by the fact that as many as 60 urgent cases have been radiographed, often under fire, in a single day. All the Red Cross work here presents unusual difficulties, owing to the heat and the lack of water."

An officer in France writes home in a letter, published in the same paper:—

"We live in exciting times now, and all that I experienced before is as nothing as compared with this. It is quite impossible for you at home to get any conception of what is meant by the newspaper phrase 'Terrific bombardment along the whole front.' The effect both to the ear and eye is such that the man is not born who could commit to paper an adequate description of it. . . ."

Here follows an account, and the writer continues:—

"An hour or so after what I have described above, the sound of wheels is heard, and we stand to know that our first batch of wounded is arriving. One by one the cars come up and discharge their pathetic cargoes—you cannot begin to understand what is meant by 'men broken in the wars' until you see these heroes as they come red-hot from the fray to have their wounds dressed before they are passed on to a casualty clearing station, and from thence to the base and 'blighty.'

"A crowd of wounded men in London with their white bandages and blue uniforms has inspired pictures entitled 'Broken in the Wars,' but until some genius arises who can produce on canvas the scene at an advance dressing station or field ambulance when an attack is in progress the people at home will have little idea of the true significance of the phrase.

"A few hours before all this they swing past us with a smile on their faces and a song on their lips, their bodies the picture of life and energy, and their uniforms clean and smart; and now they have come out again with bodies maimed with shot and shell, and with their khaki stained with the mud and blood of battle.

"Sad, pathetic, ghastly! Yes, it would be but for one thing, and that something so gloriously British. All the horrors of the fight and the agony of the wounds have not broken their spirits, or taken the smile from their faces and the cheery words from their lips. They are magnificent, even

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