

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The heroism of the British soldier on the field of battle is of the highest order, and commands our admiration and our gratitude, but that of the same soldier permanently incapacitated and disabled is of a quality that makes us thrill with pride, if our tears are near the surface with its pathos.

The Bishop of Birmingham—who, amongst other duties, is a chaplain in the Territorial Force and may frequently be seen in khaki in the 1st Southern Hospital at Bournbrook—in the course of an address given recently at Willingdon Parish Church, on behalf of the Eastbourne Hospital, said:—

"I remember having to tell a young fellow that he would never see upon this earth. A few big tears rolled down his face. Then for a few minutes he held my hand and was quite calm, and then he loosed his grip upon me and, stretching over to his locker by the side of his bed, he took out his mouth-organ. That had been his companion away over there, and he just played a certain number of his old Scottish tunes on that mouth-organ.

"I have seen that man dozens of times since. He is now at St. Dunstan's Hostel, where he is likely to prove a capable man in many respects. Not one word of complaint has he uttered."

An Indian branch of the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John was recently formed, under the presidency of the Viceroy, and sub-branches are now being set up in the Presidencies, in order to prevent waste and co-ordinate Red Cross work in India under one organization.

Mr. Harold M. Barton, of Messrs. Barton, Mayhew & Co., F.C.A., financial advisers to the Joint Committee, has left for India and Mesopotamia to standardize the system of accounts and to place the new branches in intimate touch with the Central Committee at 83, Pall Mall, S.W.

Lord Islington, who last week opened the Public Library, Manor Garden, as an extension of the Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway, which will add eighty-two beds to those available for wounded soldiers at the hospital, in pleading for support, said:—

"Whilst we are determined to prosecute this war to a logical and determined end; while we are determined that nothing shall stand in the way of a complete and satisfactory conclusion of peace along with our brave Allies, we must equally be determined one and all to remit no effort to see that that successful prosecution is carried out. And amongst the many factors bringing about that successful prosecution, among the most conspicuous and most important of them is to see to it that nothing is left undone in our hospitals and our institutions for the wounded, that we render every possible assistance that science and human sympathy can offer. That can only be done by the individual and united energy of all of us and by unhesitating

sacrifice. Therefore, see that nothing takes place in the Great Northern Hospital that will undervalue or minimise the full utility of every corner and every ward of the institution."

Sheffield has nursed 20,000 wounded soldiers in the military hospitals since the outbreak of war. Motor ambulances have covered 16,000 miles in conveying them from the railway station.

It is good to read in Lord Northcliffe's letter from Mürren in the *Times* of the care taken of our wounded prisoners:—

"A man from hateful Wittenberg was lying in a deck-chair on the sunny verandah outside his bedroom, to which was attached the very latest type of private bathroom. There was a bowl of roses and edelweiss and a box of Woodbines by his side. . . . By his bedside I noticed a photograph of the wife and children at home, and he had abundance of books and English newspapers.

"His surroundings are typical of all those at Mürren. Nothing can be too good for our soldiers, and at Mürren, and also at Chateau d'Oex, of which I obtained full accounts from English visitors, the best that modern hotels-de-luxe can give is given them. Flowers, sleep, sunshine, and happiness are everywhere."

The Government of the East Africa Protectorate is contributing £500 to the collection which is being made in East Africa for the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John, in return for the material assistance rendered by the society in the local campaign.

In view of its increased activities, the cost of the work of the Blue Cross now amounts to about £3,500 per month, and this sum depends entirely on voluntary subscriptions. The head offices are at 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W., and the Secretary is Mr. Arthur J. Coke.

The correspondence in the *Glasgow Herald*, on the subject of the position of V.A.D.s, voices both the grievances of the V.A.D.s and the views of trained nurses. Both protagonists agree that it is time there was plain speaking, and both speak plainly. On behalf of the former it is urged that when War broke out efficient V.A. Detachments were left largely unutilized, and a "Red Cross Well Wisher" asserts:—

"It is not 'nurses' but 'general servants' that the Red Cross wants, which is proved by the fact that in their recent appeal they expressly mention that previous training is not an absolute necessity. But there is another reason for the non-response to the Red Cross appeal. When war broke out, it suddenly became fashionable with certain people to take up Red Cross nursing work. With high-born ladies it became quite a vogue. Courses in sick nursing were rushed through in as many weeks as it formerly took years, and these same ladies, imperfectly trained, were pushed by influence into positions of authority as commandants (e.g., of auxiliary hospitals),

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)