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## EDITORIAL.

### WINTER COMFORTS FOR THE TROOPS.

It may seem difficult to concentrate just now upon winter comforts for the troops when we are revelling in the warm delicious, balmy days of the loveliest summer we have had for some years.

But when we remember the many thousands of men with our Armies at the various battle fronts, who depend upon the work of willing and skilful fingers for comforts, which are almost necessities, it is evident that the time is short in which to prepare, for—as Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Director-General of Voluntary Organizations, points out in a letter primarily addressed to all voluntary associations affiliated under the Army Council's scheme for the co-ordination of voluntary work, but, published for general information — “whatever may happen before next winter it is clear that vast forces will in any event occupy the field, and it is, therefore, incumbent upon us to make full and adequate provision to ensure a sufficient supply of warm comforts for our men no matter where they may be serving.”

Sir Edward Ward makes a personal appeal to all the workers affiliated under his department to look upon it not only as a duty but as a privilege to provide as many knitted mufflers, helmets, sweaters or cardigans, and hand-knitted socks as they possibly can between now and Christmas, and to send them as and when they are made to the local voluntary organizations depôt, in order that they may be sorted, packed, and despatched over seas for general distribution to the troops, or if individual workers cannot conveniently send their gifts to a local centre they should forward them by post to the Comforts Depôt, 43, Horseferry Road, Westminster, S.W. 1.

The machinery for distribution through the medium of the comforts pool at the various battle fronts, has, we are told, been gradually perfected, with the result that officers have only to make their wants known to the special officer in charge of the comforts pool, in any theatre of war where they are quartered, to ensure the immediate delivery of the comforts required for their men. Sir Edward Ward further points out that, as the war has progressed, numerous new units have been formed, and we now have hundreds of thousands of men in labour companies, machine-gun units, trench mortar batteries, and many other arms of the service who have no particular association looking after them; again, there are countless service battalions of men who rely entirely upon the comforts pools for those comforts which they so greatly need.

Such an appeal must move everyone to do their utmost. There are many nurses who in spare minutes can use their skilful fingers to add to the supply of comforts, and who can inspire their patients to do likewise.

Chronic invalids and convalescents can be encouraged to take a renewed interest in life if they realize that there is work needing to be done, and it brings consolation to the bereaved to take thought for those who are fighting for the cause for which their dear ones laid down their lives.

We conclude with the words of Sir Edward Ward:—

“I ask you individually and collectively to spare no effort to keep the pool well filled in order that no soldier shall be without his comforts, and you can rest assured that any little sacrifice which you may make will be repaid a hundred times by the satisfaction of knowing that you have at least done your share in helping the fighting man to endure his hardships.”

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