

the direct rays of the sun; and the bottom of which consists of bars of iron which even when liberally covered with mattresses and other padding renders the placing of a wounded man, especially cases of fracture, in such a conveyance a practice which can only be designated as barbarous and cruel."

Speaking of the Report to a nurse who was in Mesopotamia at the time, she remarked that she had read carefully every word of it and that it was not half bad enough.

We shall refer to it at greater length in a future issue.

Even in Bombay, where the only Military Hospital for the British sick and wounded was Colaba Station Hospital, and where one might have expected organization better than at the front, we read, "The shortage of the nursing staff was a serious hindrance to the care of the patients during all the most important periods.

There is no doubt that the patients suffered from this cause, and that the nurses were at all times overworked between February, 1915, and April, 1916. The difficulty was overcome as far as possible by the splendid service of those who were available."

When responsibility is fixed on those who are to blame for the unpreparedness of the medical arrangements, and for hushing up the subsequent shortcomings, thereby entailing such appalling suffering on the sick and wounded, the nation will demand that they shall be punished for their criminal neglect, and the disgrace brought upon the nation by their moral cowardice.

#### KILL FLIES AND SAVE LIVES.

The time of the house fly is at hand, and the medical Press is busy advising methods of destruction. "Kill flies and save lives," says the *Special Bulletin*, and gives the following simple methods for fly killing:—

Any odour pleasing to man is offensive to the fly and *vice versa*, and will drive them away. Take 5 cents' worth of oil of lavender, mix it with the same quantity of water, put it in a common glass atomizer and spray it around the rooms where flies are. In the dining room spray it lavishly, even on the table linen. The odour is very disagreeable to flies, but refreshing to most people. Geranium, mignonette, heliotrope, and white clover are offensive to flies. They especially dislike the odour of honeysuckle and hop blossoms.

According to a French scientist flies have intense hatred for the colour blue. Rooms decorated in blue will help to keep out the flies.

#### THE CONFEDERATION OF CANADA.

The King and Queen, on Monday, attended a service at Westminster Abbey in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, and the whole vicinity was thronged with soldiers and civilians. The beautiful old Abbey was crowded, the nave full of Canadian soldiers. Many wounded soldiers, and nurses, attended to testify their appreciation of the patriotism of the great Dominion, and all the sacrifices it is making for the Empire. The King sent the following telegram to the Governor-General of Canada:—

It was a great satisfaction to the Queen and me that we were able to be present at to-day's Service in Westminster Abbey in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada and in honour of her sons who have fallen in the war. I rejoice with the Dominion in celebrating the jubilee of its strong, ever-growing, prosperous life, and I join in honouring those, the living and the dead, who by their deeds have added a glorious chapter to the Empire's history.—GEORGE R. AND I.

#### THE NATIONAL BABY WEEK EXHIBITION.

The National Baby Week Exhibition opened by Her Majesty the Queen at the Central Hall, Westminster, and continuing throughout the week, with a Conference on July 4th, 5th and 6th, should do much to arouse an interest in all that concerns mothers and babies, to enhance the dignity of motherhood, and to help the nation to rear a virile race, strong to defend it whatever may betide on land and sea.

The Queen, who was accompanied by Princess Mary, looked charming in a gown of soft grey ninon and toque of sweet peas. Her Majesty was received by Lord Rhondda, chairman of the National Council for Baby Week, Lady Rhondda, and Mr. Hayes Fisher, President of the Local Government Board. Lord Rhondda presented the members of the Committee, which includes Lady Plunkett, Lady Henry, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Mrs. H. B. Irving, who was carrying a wee baby in a sling of most approved fashion, Miss Wrench, Sir Malcolm Morris, Dr. Murray Leslie, and others. As Her Majesty passed into the Central Hall mothers with babies in their arms were lined up on each side, and very fresh and sweet and clean they all were. Indeed, it would almost seem that they knew how highly privileged they were, and were on their best behaviour.

Her Majesty made a prolonged tour of inspection of the Exhibition, and was obviously interested in what she saw, particularly in six sets of triplets and their mothers, all of whom had received the King's Bounty.

In the Entrance Hall the National League for Physical Education and Improvement had

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)