

order to keep the truth from the civil population in Germany.

A message from the frontier town of Kerkrade (Limburg) states that trains laden with German wounded and dripping with blood are continuously proceeding along the frontier.

Regular hospital wagons have long since been replaced by ordinary closed goods wagons, and in these wounded who cannot be attended to in France or Belgium are now being transported to Germany lying on straw or shavings spread over the floor.

Alas! some of our brave wounded, made prisoners, may be amongst these sufferers.

To make good the scarcity of leather and clothing, special squads of German ghouls have been told off to strip the dead on the field, so that their boots and uniforms may be used again. Civilised people have ceased to shudder at the brutality of the Hun!

Mr. John Reid, a director of the North British Locomotive Works, Glasgow, who in 1916 provided funds which established the Princess Louise Hospital for Limbless Soldiers at Erskine, has now presented to the Hospital Trustees a wood of 50 acres, and an area of 45 acres of agricultural land adjoining the hospital on the west, to preserve the amenity of the grounds, which now extend to 500 acres. Mr. Reid has been closely identified for many years with philanthropic work in Glasgow.

In a speech at Worcester, Mr. Hodge, the Minister of Pensions, is reported to have expressed the opinion that the system of hospitals exclusively for neurasthenic cases was not the best method of treatment. Mr. Hodge said he "wanted neurasthenic cases mixed with other cases, so that the cheery chap might shed some of the sunshine of his presence over those suffering from neurasthenia."

Professor Elliot Smith differs from this point of view, as does also Mr. Charles Drummond, who states that 90 per cent. of the cases admitted to the special hospital for such cases at Golders Green were rendered fit for work.

Then such experts as Major Robert Armstrong Jones, Dr. Foord Caiger, Dr. Fortescue Fox and Dr. George Savage, consider the Minister of Pensions well justified in his statement that pensioners still suffering from shell shock or neurasthenia are all the better for mixing freely with the more cheery disabled men. These experts add, in a letter to the *Times* :—

"There is no one and only way to recovery in such cases, and the method of seclusion advocated by Dr. Elliot Smith in *The Times* of March 22nd has but a limited usefulness. However desirable it may be, on various grounds, that soldiers afflicted in this way should be treated in institutions for nervous and mental cases, that course would be of very doubtful advantage, and is, in fact, impracticable for pensioners most of whom

have already been a long time in hospitals and are now free to choose for themselves.

"The committee, which hopes to open shortly the inaugural Village Centre for the Cure and Training of ex-Service Men, has always attached great importance to the mixture of all kinds of curable disablement (physical, nervous, and mental) during the convalescent period following discharge from the Army. We believe that it is in every way desirable for the neurasthenic pensioner to be free as soon as possible from hospitals, however admirable, and to be placed amid healthful and encouraging surroundings, with congenial occupations and training, if possible in the open air.

"The other policy praised by Dr. Elliot Smith, of segregating neurasthenic cases in neurological hospitals, seems to us inapplicable to pensioners in the later stages of convalescence, as we are glad to see Mr. Hodge recognises, for no other form of abnormality responds so readily as does nervous strain to natural and normal surroundings."

PRO PATRIA.

The war is taking its toll of members of the nursing profession. It is with sorrow that we make the following announcement :—

NURSING SERVICE.

Killed.—Andrews, Sister E., A.R.R.C., T.F.N.S.

Wounded.—Maxey, Sister K., T.F.N.S.

THE DAVIS BED-REST.

The Davis Bed-Rest is intended to prevent the patient slipping down in the bed, as sometimes happens with an ordinary bed-rest.

It was designed by a nurse, who was forced to spend several weeks in bed, owing to a motor accident, and who experienced a good deal of discomfort caused by slipping down in the bed.

The bed-rest is made of Belgian ticking and is fastened to the rail of the bedstead by four webbing straps.

There is a pocket into which a small pillow is slipped, which rests under the patient's thighs and supports him. Pillows are placed at the back of the patient as with the ordinary bed-rest and a comfortable, hammock-like effect is produced, which is much appreciated by the patient.

The bed-rest is obtainable from Messrs. Cox & Son, 160, New Bond Street, at a cost of 18s. 6d.

We learn that the bed-rest is much approved by Dr. Caiger, the Medical Superintendent of the South-Western Hospital, Stockwell, and that six have been ordered for the enteric ward in that hospital. We are indebted to the Matron, Miss S. A. Villiers for bringing this excellent appliance to our notice.

The Editor desires to thank those readers who have kindly undertaken, in response to her appeal, to send THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING to Princess Victoria Rest Clubs for Nurses in France. Four of the Clubs are now supplied. There are still six to be provided for.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)