

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE.

It is the irony of Fate that, whilst the Duke of Connaught, the Grand Prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, who recently sent a protest to "the most illustrious Grand Master of the Bailiwick of Brandenburg," and other members of the Johanniter Order, "with regard to certain belligerent acts committed by the Imperial German Government during the present war," and appealing to "its eminent members in Germany, in the hope and belief that they will unite with us in endeavouring to uphold our historic mottoes, 'Pro Fide' and 'Pro Utilitate Hominum,' and to maintain the highest standard of Christian generosity, charity, mercy, and honour," that the unknighly compatriots of these "illustrious" persons should have simply wiped out our splendid Brigade Hospital of St. John at Etaples with bomb and fire, and murdered patients, doctors and nurses irrespectively with the utmost pleasure in this world!

CASUALTIES IN BOMBED HOSPITALS.

Mr. Macpherson stated in the House of Commons on Monday that a report from the Commander-in-Chief showed that from May 15th to June 1st, hospitals had been bombed by the Germans on the north coast of France on seven occasions. The total casualties in those raids were 248 killed and 593 wounded. The total included 31 women—16 Sisters and 15 members of Q.M.A.A.C.

KILLED AND WOUNDED.

	Killed.	Wounded.
Officers	11	18
Other Ranks	218	534
Nursing Sisters	5	11
Q.M.A.A.C.s	8	7
Civilians	6	23
Totals	248	593

We cannot find words in which to express our burning indignation at such barbarity, and offer sympathy to the outraged relations and friends of the sufferers.

It is proposed to evacuate two hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, to meet the urgent need for increased military hospital accommodation. The staffing will be undertaken by the Army Council.

The Army Council have approved of the appointment of Major-General C. H. Burtchell, C.B., C.M.G., as Director-General Medical Services, British Armies in France, with the temporary rank of Lieutenant-General, in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir A. T. Sloggett, K.C.B. K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., who, having completed the period of his appointment and passed the age limit for service on the active list, is being retired in accordance with the general principle that officers so situated shall be replaced by younger officers of proved ability and experience.

A LIMB TAX.

Speaking recently at Liverpool, Sir Robert Jones said that a crippled soldier discharged too soon from hospital becomes a focus of discontent. Considered in one aspect, it admonishes the country of a duty it owes to itself as well as to its wounded heroes. The war is a great generator of misery, and if only for the sake of national moral every means should be taken to lessen the depressing sum of suffering. No patient should be compelled to leave hospital till he is rendered as fit for civil life as medical science can make him. That entails plentiful means of treatment as regards medical staff, accommodation and apparatus. Sir Robert Jones mentioned that whereas 24,000 beds for orthopaedic cases are now available throughout the kingdom, 40,000 to 50,000 will be required. If, through lack of hospital room, injured soldiers are sent away before they have properly recovered the country will fail lamentably in its duty to those to whom we owe all that "makes life worth living." Why should we not have a "limb" tax? so that all of us with a full complement should contribute to help those who have lost their limbs in our defence. No able-bodied woman would grudge paying such a tax.

MOTOR POWER FOR ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.

Dr. Putti's lecture at the exhibition held at Westminster, illustrating the after-care of disabled soldiers, was of special interest.

The Italian surgeon's subject was the employment of the muscles of the stump as the motor power for the artificial limb.

This method has been practised for some time in Germany, and is now being used in Italy, but has, up to the present, not been adopted in England.

Various systems are employed, but it will be sufficient for the purpose of this notice for us to describe briefly the principle of the simplest.

If the surgeon who performs the amputation prepares for this method, he will save as much muscle and skin as are required and arrange these in bundles, making, as it were, forked or divided stumps. A ring is fitted by means of screw nuts round these bundles, and to this ring or rings is harnessed the limb by means of wires, pulleys and other connecting mediums. As the muscles left in the stumps contract or expand, the limb is worked in its natural way.

If the surgeon has not prepared the stump at the time of operation, a "canal" has to be made through the muscle at right angles to the stump, and this canal has to be lined with skin. When it is ready, a rod is passed through and to this a stirrup-like attachment is fitted which harnesses the limb in the same way as described above. Considerable weights can be borne in this way without any pain.

The advantage of the method is obviously that no muscular power is wasted. The actual muscles that moved the unamputated limb continue to move the artificial one, and it is also claimed that the movements are more forcible and more skilful.

Films and models illustrating the procedure and results, were shewn at the Exhibition.

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