

A hospital secretary has been letting himself go in the *Pall Mall Gazette* on the inadvisability of having women on hospital boards. Of course, he writes what he terms "flapdoodle," but here and there he inserts a word of truth:—

"Ladies," he writes, "are so very sensitive; that is one reason why most of them are not fitted for work on hospital boards, where argument, while always practical, is occasionally fierce and unladylike."

The genteel attitude of the average woman on committees, where, if not maintaining the passivity of the cabbage, she hesitates to express her opinions with any degree of conviction, is no deterrent to the average man. *He* just tramples on.

### EVACUATION OF WOUNDED IN LAPLAND SNOW.

In his thesis for the degree of M.D.Vict., Dr. A. H. Macklin, who is now on his way as surgeon in the *Quest* to the Antarctic again, gives, says the *Lancet*, a good account, with excellent pictures, of the difficult country in Lapland about Murmansk, in which he was fighting in the North Russian *Syren* Expeditionary Force in 1918-19. The country was within the Arctic Circle, and very cold, though not always very cold as the Gulf Stream just touches the Murman coast. Major (as he then was) Macklin had to organise the evacuation of the wounded and sick from the mobile columns, and would seem to have done it well. The wounded man was carried out of action probably in a man-drawn sledge, but men could not carry him far, so the orderlies quickly changed him into another sledge drawn by reindeer or ponies, after they had dressed his wound and wrapped him in a special bag against the cold, and thus he went to the regimental aid-post. Here he was given food, had his wounds dressed and splints applied, had his feet dry rubbed and anti-frostbite socks put on. Then, his feet packed in dry hay if available, he was rolled up in his special bag again with a hot-water bag, and sent on. The "special bag" was a wadded quilt, 7 ft. by 7 ft., of wool and cotton in a close-woven cloth cover (not waterproof); this was secured round him, the foot-end turned up to prevent draughts, and a blanket tucked round his shoulders as well. He was then laid amongst hay in a sledge with a hood over him. At relay posts the animals might be changed, the patients got hot food, urinals, bed-pans, and were held for resuscitation if necessary, and in time they reached the advanced dressing station. The great problem was to avoid cold and frostbite. Dr. Macklin, whose two years' experience as a dog-driver with Shackleton in the Antarctic, as well as his service in the war in the Italian Alps, give his opinion weight, recommends against frostbite of feet: 1, No oil or grease. 2, Dry rubbing of feet, three pairs of socks, each successive pair a size larger than the

last, and then loose boots; no constriction; two loose pairs of socks being better than three that are tight. Conditions were very different in North Russia from those in the other theatres of war. It sounds odd to find 20 reindeer in the war establishment of a medical unit ("10 to draw, 10 to break trail"). In that country, too, matches were very valuable; so while the "establishment" shows "Rations, 425 lb.," there also appears "Matches, 17 boxes."

### NATIONAL CLEAN MILK SOCIETY.

The Council of the National Clean Milk Society (3, Bedford Square, W.C.1), which was founded in 1915 to raise the hygienic standard of milk and milk products and to educate the public as to the importance of a clean and wholesome milk supply, is appealing for public support.

The Society provides lecturers on any aspect of the milk question, demonstrators to show how easily clean milk can be produced, and technical advisers to help producers or distributors. It has lantern slides and photographs for use by its lecturers or for hire by public authorities, &c.; it furnishes exhibits as to the value of milk and the need for its improvement; and has published many pamphlets dealing with the various aspects of the milk situation.

### COMING EVENTS.

December 25th.—Christmas Day.

December 29th.—View Day, St. Marylebone Infirmary, Notting Hill, W. 3 to 6 p.m. Tea in the Board Room, 4 p.m.

### A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

#### THE CHRISTMAS QUEST.

"And remember, my son, the King whom thou seekest is not to be found in a palace, nor among the rich and powerful. If the light of the world and the glory of Israel had been appointed to come with the greatness of earthly splendour, it must have appeared long ago. For no son of Abraham will ever again rival the power which Joseph had in the palaces of Egypt or the magnificence of Solomon throned between the lions in Jerusalem. But the light for which the world is waiting is a new light, the glory that shall rise out of patient triumphant suffering. And the kingdom which is to be established forever is a new kingdom, the royalty of unconquerable love.

"I do not know how this shall come to pass, nor how the turbulent kings and peoples of earth shall be brought to acknowledge the Messiah and pay homage to Him. But this I know. Those who seek Him will do well to look among the poor and lowly, the sorrowful and the oppressed." —"The Other Wise Man—Van Dyke." From *The Canadian Nurse*.

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