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The War In South Africa

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the superintendent of the laboratory should be a professed pathologist, and not a physician or surgeon in practice; and that, therefore, the remuneration to be paid him should be on a higher scale than is usual with hospital appointments. As pathologist and curator of the museum the holder of the office will receive £250 a year, and since he will also be lecturer in pathology to the medical school, a certain sum will further accrue to him from the fees.

In requiring that the holder of the office should be a professed pathologist, the Governors have taken a step as yet taken by few of the London hospitals; but it is held to be advisable from the point of view of the patients, the hospital staff, and the reputation of the hospital and school, and one which has been shown to work admirably in the case of the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, to cite the most notable example.

Dr. Lazarus-Barlow has been elected to fill the office thus created, and since he has already had over seven years' experience in pathology as Demonstrator of Pathology at Cambridge University, and Curator of the Museum and Demonstrator of Morbid Anatomy at St. George's Hospital, his appointment will doubtless justify the expectations of the Governors with regard to the new departure that they have taken.

### THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN CAPE TOWN.]

November 15th.

#### THE BOER WOUNDED.

THE transport *Patia* arrived from Natal yesterday, with 87 Boer prisoners, of whom about twenty were wounded, and were sent on to No. 1 General Hospital at Wynberg. The rest went in the usual course to the prison ship *Penelope* at Simons Town. The wounded men were landed at the Cape-town Docks, and thence conveyed by train direct to Wynberg Station. I have not as yet had an opportunity of examining the injured men, but from what I saw of them as they were being landed, I should say that none of the injuries are very severe; only 5 were stretcher cases, the rest being quite able to walk. As in the case of the British wounded, to whom I referred last week, most of them appeared to be hit in the extremities. Two Boer surgeons, Drs. Sharpe and Marais, accompanied them.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF WOUNDED TO WYNBERG HOSPITAL.

The local centre of the St. John Ambulance has got into working order a scheme for affording assistance *en route* to the sick conveyed from the Docks to the General Hospital. At the Docks, where the men are entrained, it has a trained nurse, with three lady assistants, and at Wynberg Station, where they are detained for conveyance by ambulance wagon to the hospital, a trained nurse with 5 lady assistants. A waiting room is provided at each place, with a paraffin stove and light refreshments, such as bovril, milk, tea, coffee, cocoa, and aerated waters, with stimulants. Lounges and chairs are fixed up in each depôt, and they furnish not only a place where the men can be kept in privacy, but the opportunity of a little refreshment before the journey is under taken. At Wynberg, the advantage of this provision is obvious, as the hospital is fully a mile distant, and the ambulance waggons can only convey about twenty-four each journey, so that a number must always have to remain in waiting for a time. The bearer detachment of the Association has not yet been made use of, but is ready whenever required. Very much more voluntary aid is available, but the authorities have, for the present, declined it.

#### THE GOOD HOPE SOCIETY.

The Good Hope Society, which has been formed for the purpose of providing sick and wounded with extra-regulation comforts, is meeting with enthusiastic support, Mrs. Hanbury Williams, the chatelaine of Government House, being the moving spirit. It is supplying such things as flowers, literature, fruit, tobacco and cigarettes, easy chairs, lounges, etc.

#### THE SYMPATHY OF THE "BROWN PEOPLE."

In connection with this, a very touching instance of the quiet sympathy of the coloured people ought to be men-

tioned. A largely-attended meeting of coloured men was held at Stellenbosch, a very hot Bond centre, but where the Brown people are enthusiastically loyal, to consider the best way of helping the Imperial authorities, and it was decided to forward regularly supplies of strawberries and other fruit to the hospital. Stellenbosch is a large fruit-producing centre, and most of the coloured folk have their little gardens. No white man was present at the meeting, and the action was absolutely spontaneous.

#### OFFER OF A HOSPITAL AT STELLENBOSCH.

The loyal whites held a meeting at the same place, and decided to offer the General a hall fully equipped as a hospital with 12 beds and provided with nursing staff, Dr. Versfeld agreeing to give his services as surgeon. All was to be done at the expense of the community. Whether this kind offer will be accepted I do not know. The village has an evil sanitary reputation, so perhaps the Surgeon-General will hesitate.

#### MEDICAL ATTENDANCE ON THE JOHANNESBURG REFUGEES.

The problem of medical attendance on the Johannesburg refugees has had the attention of the local relief committees. As we have now about 20,000 of these people in our midst, most of them practically penniless, there is naturally a good deal of sickness amongst them, mostly gastro-intestinal diseases, and broncho-pneumonia amongst the children. Dr. Jane Waterston, Miss Edith Pellatt, L.S.A., and Drs. Kitching, Fuller, Hazell, Von Landsberg, and Darley-Hartley have volunteered their services, and are dividing the duty of gratuitously attending the scattered refugees at the six homes and at their lodgings in the city. Several chemists have kindly undertaken to do the dispensing at half ordinary rates.

#### VACCINATION.

The Relief Committee is very wisely insisting on every claimant for relief, without distinction, being vaccinated—a very necessary measure, as Johannesburg has never been free from small-pox for years, and several cases have already been brought down.

### THE PHYSICAL STANDARD FOR ADMISSION TO THE ARMY.

At the annual meeting of the British Medical Association held at Portsmouth, the following resolutions were passed in the Section of Medicine:

That the Council be requested to communicate to the War Office that it is the opinion of this Section that the physical examination of candidates for the army should precede the educational.

That the Council be requested to communicate to the War Office that it is the opinion of this Section that soldiers ought not to serve in the tropics before the age of twenty-two (22).

That the physical standard for admission to the public services requires reconsideration, and that the Council be also requested to communicate this resolution to the War Office, the Admiralty, and the other Governmental bodies interested.

Copies of these resolutions were in due course forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War. The following reply has been received by the General Secretary:

[Copy.]

War Office,  
London, S.W.,  
December 2nd, 1899.

Sir,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 8th ultimo forwarding copies of resolutions passed at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association at Portsmouth in August last.

In reply I am to acquaint you that Lord Lansdowne will take note of the views expressed by the Association in regard to the important subjects dealt with in the resolutions, and I am to state also that it may be of interest to the Council to know that he has appointed a Committee to report upon the question of the physical standards for admission to service.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. KNOX.

The General Secretary,  
British Medical Association,  
429, Strand, W.C.