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Notes Of The War

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universities, so that it would rather tend to depreciate medical education at the universities. He advocated, in opposition to this scheme, one which is considerably modified from that in practice in Germany. He thinks that, as there, the State alone should give the licence to practise, and that all the powers which the different bodies possess of granting such licence after examination should be bought up. At the same time, the State should not examine any candidate, with a view to licence, till he could present a certificate or degree from some recognised teaching body. In this way, while all merely examining boards would be supplanted by the State, on the other hand, the universities and other schools would devote themselves to teaching, their degree or certificate not being a licence to practise, but merely a certificate of having completed a given course of study to the satisfaction of the teachers. Professor Young also advocated a higher standard of medical education. The difficulty has been raised that there are many parts where the remuneration of practice is too low ever to induce men of sufficient education to enter the profession. To meet this, a system of increasing the income of such practitioners by a State grant was advocated; and it was suggested that this might well be done by the State adding to the subsidy which it at present gives towards supplying parochial medical relief.

## NOTES OF THE WAR.

### THE SICK AND WOUNDED AT METZ.

OUR Berlin correspondent writes as follows, under date Nov. 8th.

The special trains for sick and wounded are now going more regularly and in greater number. Some are arranged by the commissaries of evacuation at Weissenburg, and are to go between that place and Chalons and Paris. The first train of this kind, which was fitted out and sent by the "Berlin Hülfsverein", has now gone for the third time to fetch wounded from Metz. On its second course, this train brought home ninety-eight severely wounded, mostly belonging to the first and tenth army corps: two carriages of it stayed at Courcelles, and were destined to pass through Metz for Novéant to fetch some of the wounded there. I am sorry to say that some of the young volunteer nurses who accompanied the train caught fever during their expedition to the field-hospitals. It is known through the newspapers what a large number of sick are among the garrison and the inhabitants of Metz—cases of fever, hospital gangrene, and small-pox, so frequent these last months among the French, are very numerous. To prevent the spreading of these diseases, the army medical department sent an order immediately after the capitulation, that the patients in Metz were not to be sent to Germany, but that other measures were to be taken in behalf of them. For this purpose, a commission is nominated to inspect the hospitals and to consider the circumstances; as a member of this commission, Professor Frierichs left Berlin last week.

*The Medical Schools.*—From the absence of our principal medical teachers and of the majority of the students, very few of the medical classes have been opened at the regular term. The Charité, in other years crowded by students in this month, is nearly as lonely as in the hot weather; and among those who go to the few lectures really opened up to the present time, the majority are foreigners. The course of war and politics will decide whether we shall have a regular medical "semester" this winter at all.

*War-Museum.*—Among the measures for the advantage of science arising out of the war, I may mention the medical and surgical war-museum, established in the "Friedrich Wilhelms-Institut", our medical school for the army. It is expected that every surgeon occupied with the troops will collect interesting anatomical preparations, as far as time and circumstances allow, and send them with notes to this museum. Even now, among the *post mortem* examinations in the "Barracken" near Berlin, a good number of fine specimens are collected; and I am informed that the last hospital-train brought also a series from the hospitals near Metz.

*Abuse of the Red Cross.*—The following is the text of an order issued by the King: "The red cross of the Convention of Geneva is to be worn by no one otherwise than on the arm-band (*e. g.*, not on the cap). Wearing the white arm-band with the red cross, even when it is stamped, does not give the right of travelling freely in those parts of France which are occupied by the army. When a free intercourse of the public is not desirable, particularly among the outposts, on the Etappen-roads, railways, etc., the military authorities and

the gendarmes have to control the legitimization of the wearers of the red cross, in order to prevent the intercourse of the occupied territory with the enemy, and to disburden the streets of useless transports. The legitimization of wearing the red cross band, and the legitimization as a member of the voluntary aid, will be granted in the German armies by the royal commissary and military inspector of the voluntary aid, Prince Pless; by the royal military commissary of Bavaria, Count Castell; and by the Würtemberg Aid Society. Free travelling by rail and requisition of carriages will be allowed to legimated persons only, if they have a written permission for travelling, signed by one of the above-named authorities, or by one of their delegates. In case of doubt on this point, the royal Etappen-commander will communicate with the respective local delegates of the aid-societies. The military authorities are specially instructed to pay attention to persons who are not German subjects wearing the red cross. Persons of this kind travelling without legitimization by the above-named authorities will be arrested as suspicious." Considering the numerous cases of abuse of the red cross, and the crowd of battle-loafers, it seems to be in the interest of those who really wish to help that there will be a more strict control in future; and we are sure that the members of British aid-societies will not complain of this formality, necessary for the advantage of the wounded and of themselves.

### HOSPITAL AT DARMSTADT.

THE *Main Zeitung*, a Hesse paper, speaks very highly of the Alice Hospital at Darmstadt, devoted to the treatment of soldiers suffering from internal diseases. It is under the protection of the Princess Alice, "whom", says the *Zeitung*, "we are accustomed to see at the head of so many philanthropic undertakings", and has been established by the English Society for the Sick and Wounded in the War. The Hessian Government granted the necessary accommodation; and there are usually about eighty patients, mostly suffering from typhus and dysentery. The Crown Princess recently visited the hospital on the 21st ultimo, and inspected the wards and the whole of the domestic arrangements, as also one of Dr. Mayo's new sick transport cars. The staff consists of Dr. Mayo, Fellow of New College, Oxford; Mr. J. C. Galton, Lecturer on Comparative Anatomy at the Charing Cross Hospital; Mr. H. Rundle, formerly House-Surgeon at Winchester Hospital; and Mr. Athill, Dresser at St. George's Hospital, London. Some ladies belonging to the Hülfsverein manage the household arrangement, and the nurses of that Society attend on the patients.

### THE ENGLISH AMBULANCES AT VERSAILLES.

THE English ambulance, writes Dr. Russell, is to remain at St. Germain, where it will not have much to do unless there is another sortie. There is one case—a man with an injured finger. But the time of the surgeons will not be lost. Some have set about learning French; others, I believe, go round and look at the hospitals. There are thirty wounded Prussians in the palace close by—very close to the collection of antiquities made by the Emperor, who has left there something to France. The waggons—horribly ugly and heavy, and contrasting very unfavourably with the French ambulances—are parked in the court and parade-ground, flanked by the bronze battery of the Guard Landwehr. The determination to send all or part to Corbeil has been resisted effectually.

### THE BERLIN CENTRAL SOCIETY FOR THE AID OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED.

THE managers of the German society at Berlin for the aid of the sick and wounded in war have issued a statement of their operations up to Oct. 23rd, of which we have received a copy. The station is in connection with chief depôts at Coblenz, Mayence, Mannheim, and Nancy; and with branch depôts at Saarlouis, Saarbrücken, Weissenburg, Hagenu, Jouy aux Asches, Courcelles, Remilly, Pont à Mousson, Novéant, Ars sur Moselle, Gorze, Ligny, Gravelotte, St. Marie aux Chênes, Libramont, Sedan, Donchery, Mouzon, Chalons, Rheims, Epernay, Meaux, Château Thierry, Corbeil, and Versailles. During the three months from July 23rd to October 23rd, there were sent from the central depôt to the other depôts, 132 consignments; to the lazareths, 429; to the army in the field, 33; in all, 594 consignments. The cost of furnishing the consignments has amounted to about 1,380,000 thalers (£201,250); inclusive of the rich contributions of material made by the aid-societies of the free towns and placed at the disposal of the central committee. The sum does not include the gifts in kind made by societies and private individuals: an estimate of their value in money will be made on another occasion. The committee thank the German railway companies for the aid afforded them in promptly forwarding their consignments; especially the directors of the Berlin and Anhalt railway, the Berlin, Potsdam, and Magdeburg railway, and the Hanover railway. The

forwarding by direct transport of woollen and warm clothing to the armies in the field has been essentially limited, inasmuch as the supply has been furnished by the military organisation, and thus the hurtful operation of the wet and cold weather has been obviated. Until this was done, the central committee believed it to be a part of its duty to make provision of this kind, in order to prevent serious disease, notwithstanding that it would have involved an outlay of about 500,000 thalers (about £64,000). For the evacuation of the lazareths before Metz, a transport carriage has been fitted out under the superintendence of Herr von Hönicka, and has already proved of service. Moveable detachments, provided with supplies of all kinds—materials for dressing, necessities for the lazareths, woollen clothing, medicines, and refreshments, have followed the army before Paris, and have endeavoured to afford the most practical help to the adjoining lazareths; several new detachments have been sent out for the same purpose. New dépôts have been established at Chalons, Rheims, Meaux, Château Thierry, and Versailles; and new ice-dépôts at Meaux and Nancy. A large number of properly qualified persons, provided with the necessary disinfectants, have been sent to the various stations. A table of the various articles supplied by the society is given, among which are enumerated, beds, 1,632; straw-pillows, 18,395; straw-mattresses, 26,540; sets of bed-clothes, 26,377; bandages, 978,364; charpie, 63,829 lbs.; compresses, 213,422; woollen stockings, 279,955 pair; woollen drawers, 106,254 pair; woollen waistcoats, 151,801; waterproof sheeting, 47,711 ells; splints of various kinds, about 4,200; plaster of Paris, 45,870 lbs.; chloroform, 2,454 lbs.; permanganate of potash, 1,526 lbs.; carbolic acid, 9,309 lbs.; 50,300 morphia powders; 58,310 packets of Dover's powder; 55,550 packets of quinine; 7,628 bottles of chloral hydrate, and 318 bottles of the same crystallised; 405,761 bottles of Bordeaux wine; 7,581,050 cigars; 600,000 lbs. of ice; besides numerous amputating instruments, materials for dressing, medicines, and other necessities of all kinds, including lamps, lanterns, materials for making and giving light, wines, spirits, porter, condensed milk, extract of meat, various articles of food both animal and vegetable, etc.

#### AMBULANCES IN FRANCE.

THE formation of committees for the aid of the sick and wounded has made progress in various parts of France, such as Lyons, Rouen, Havre, etc. The evangelical aid-committee of Paris has proceeded to Tours, and has established ambulances in Tours, Orleans, and Chalons-sur-Marne. In the department of the Arne, several landed proprietors have established ambulances from their own means.

#### THE SICK AND WOUNDED IN DRESDEN.

MOST of the cases of disease among the French prisoners lately brought to Dresden were of typhus; there were also several cases of small-pox. In the three hospitals of the town there are about 1,580 sick and wounded, of whom more than 700 are French.

### THE PROPOSED ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.

AFTER the conclusion of the ordinary business of the meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society on Tuesday evening, the meeting was made special for the purpose of confirming, or rejecting, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Paget, seconded by Dr. Quain, and passed at a special meeting of the Society on October 25th:—

"That the Council be requested to consider whether, while maintaining the charter and constitution of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, it may be possible to obtain a more complete co-operation with the Pathological, Obstetrical, Clinical, and Epidemiological, or other Societies for the promotion of Medical science."

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed as to their accuracy,

The PRESIDENT (Dr. BURROWS) read the bye-law of the Society referring to the business of special meetings, and pointed out that no question could be discussed of which notice had not been given.

Dr. ROBERT LEE moved, and Dr. MURCHISON seconded, the confirmation of the resolution.

Dr. GREENHOW asked whether he would be in order in proposing an amendment.

The PRESIDENT decided that he would not.

Dr. GREENHOW said that he would have given notice had he been aware that it was necessary. He would at once submit, however to the President's decision. With regard to the motion before the meeting, if he were convinced that it really expressed the wish of the Society, he would not oppose it. Taking a retrospective view of the scheme,

tracing it through all its stages, and pointing out how important a part the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society had taken in promoting it, he could not help thinking that the resolution did not represent the feeling of the members of the Society. He believed it probable that many of the members present at the last meeting voted rather from personal respect to the proposer than from regard to the merits of the question. [*No, no.*] He would ask whether it was desirable that the amalgamation scheme should be strangled by those who had given birth to it.

Dr. JOHN WEBSTER remarked that the assent of two-thirds of the Fellows of the Society present at a general meeting was necessary in order to make any change in the laws or constitution of the Society.

Dr. BARCLAY hoped that the resolution would not be confirmed. He would inform the Fellows present that Mr. Paget had been asked, after the last meeting, whether he was aware that a plan similar to that proposed by him had already been discussed, and that the Pathological Society had refused its assent unless there were such a change in the name and style of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society as would place all the Societies on an equal footing. He regretted that the Council of the Society had presented a mere report without offering any advice as to the course which should be followed. At the last discussion, the opponents of the amalgamation scheme had admitted the great advantages to the profession which would arise from it. They had used even stronger language in its favour than he would employ; and he could not understand why they voted against it. It was a great pity that, if the scheme was to fall through, it should be in consequence of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society declining to go on with it. The Society had shown more self-abnegation, and had more readily laid aside considerations of self-interest and self-regard, than any other Society. It would then be a pity that the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society should be the first to retreat. It was true that there was a strong minority, among whom were men whose opinions were to be respected; and, perhaps, it would be well not to press on the scheme too fast. If the meeting refused to confirm the resolution, the result would be to send the matter back to the Council, and leave it to them to proceed with the scheme in such manner and at such a time as they might think advisable.

Dr. MOXON thought that the amalgamation scheme was in reality not in favour with the Pathological Society—that is to say, with those members of that Society who ordinarily attended its meetings.

Dr. PITMAN said that the question must be looked at from a practical point of view. In order to carry out a scheme of amalgamation, there must be great unanimity. The proposal was, not to merely change the name of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, but to extinguish it and form a new Society. This could not be done without a new charter. Was it possible to get one? A number of members were opposed to this; and, therefore, he thought it would not be possible. He thought that the Society would be wasting labour if it pushed the scheme further at present.

After some remarks from Mr. BROOKE and Dr. WYNN WILLIAMS, a vote was taken, when there appeared—

For confirming Mr. Paget's resolution.....41.

Against.....36.

The resolution was therefore confirmed.

### ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.

THE introductory lecture in the Edinburgh Extraacademical School was delivered on November 1st by Dr. Joseph Bell; Dr. Gillespie, a President of the Royal College of Surgeons, was in the Chair. There were also present Dr. Halliday Douglas, President of the Royal College of Physicians, and a large number of members of the medical profession and of students.

Dr. Joseph Bell congratulated the students on their choice of a school of medicine. Edinburgh had for centuries been a noted centre of education, and for nearly two hundred years unrivalled in the world as a medical school. The explanation of this undoubted fact might possibly be, that the proverbial industry and perseverance of Scotchmen had given Edinburgh many hard working and accomplished professors; but he believed the main reason was because it consisted of two rival or apparently rival, but really co-operating schools, which were so near each other as practically to be under the same roof. Another reason was its concentration. He was thankful to be able to tell only of gains to the school this year. The vacant lectureship had fallen into the hands of Mr. John Wyllie, who, after a brilliant student career