

dressing station, and on to the field hospitals. The thirty-two stretcher bearers with their eight stretchers, forming two stretcher sections of sixteen men and four stretchers each, under the command of the second junior medical officer, set out from the collecting station, pick up the wounded left behind, by the regimental aid, carry them to the collecting station, and, having afforded such medical treatment as may be necessary, load them into the ambulance wagons for transport to the dressing stations.

The surgical work at and in front of the collecting station, must, like that of the regimental aid, be of the simplest kind. At this part of the field no operative procedures can be attempted except the ligation of bleeding vessels; fractures of long bones should be put up with extemporaneous splints and open wounds should be covered with first field dressings without being wiped or cleaned in any way, or touched by hands or instruments. If more than this be done at the front infection of the wounds is sure to occur, and antiseptic or aseptic surgery, the great object to be aimed at by surgeons in warfare as well as in civil practice, will be rendered impossible or more difficult at the posts further to the rear.

The amount and the kind of surgical work which must be performed at the dressing station will largely depend on whether or not the field hospitals are up and in their places. If they are close at hand and ready for the reception of patients, the labors of the medical officers will be considerably reduced; but if not, all the primary surgical work of the battery must be done at the dressing station. In either case all the wounds must be dressed and rendered aseptic; a large number of primary operations will certainly be required; the provisional immobilization apparatus already applied to fractured limbs must be seen to as to its efficiency for its purpose; and stimulants and nourishment must be given to the patients to recover them from the more or less profound constitutional shock which is usually present. As the patients are dressed they are placed in the ambulance wagons, which as they are filled, are dispatched to the field hospitals in charge of a corporal and a wagon orderly.

The second line of assistance is composed of the field hospitals and the stationary hospitals on the lines of communication with the base of operations.

The field hospitals are lightly equipped, moveable hospitals, capable of being easily and rapidly opened out and packed up. They are intended only for the temporary treatment of 100 patients each, and are supplied with wheel or pack transport, as the nature of the country may render advisable. They are divisible into half-hospitals, each for fifty men, when this may be required. No special hospital diets are supplied to them, the field rations, cooked as the medical officers may direct, and supplemented by such "extras" and "medical comforts" as they may order, being used in them; they are termed "non-dieted hospitals." The bedding consists of a blanket and a waterproof sheet for each patient, no bedstead being supplied. When suitable buildings are available these hospitals may be established in them; otherwise the tents are pitched, and they should always be placed as near to the dressing station as possible, so as to shorten the journeys of the ambulances. There must be an ample water supply.

Field hospitals, it must always be remembered, must advance with the divisions to which they are attached; during the active operations of the troops they are intended merely for the temporary accommodation of the wounded immediately after a battle.

A constant stream of convoys of sick and wounded must, therefore, be kept up from them towards the stationary hospitals on the lines of communication and the base. When an engagement is imminent, the field hospitals must be emptied, so as to be ready to move forward and receive the wounded from the battle field; and when this is impossible in the case of any particular hospital, in consequence of the serious nature of the cases occupying it, it must be left behind to become itself a hospital on the lines of communication, and an empty hospital sent forward to take its place.

During and immediately after a great battle the press of work in a field hospital is usually very great. Large numbers of wounded men requiring immediate attention arrive almost simultaneously. Food must be given them; many primary operations must be performed; fractures must be got into position and rendered immovable; wounds must be rendered aseptic and dressed—in a word, all the surgical necessities of perhaps 100 men, some of them slightly and some of them terribly injured, will require instant consideration and treatment. These are not, in modern times, procedures which can be hurriedly performed, nor in a perfunctory manner; on the contrary, they require, to achieve the successful results obtained by scientific surgery, almost the same nicety of manipulation and care in detail which the bacteriologist expends on his experiments in the laboratory. Failure in the laboratory means only the waste of experiment; but failure to keep infection from a wound, or to render it harmless if it be present, means pain and suffering from surgical infective disease, loss of limbs, and, in many cases, of life itself.

The stationary hospitals on the lines of communication are more permanent and better equipped establishments than those just described. They are "dieted hospitals," that is, the patients in them are fed, as closely as may be, according to the usual hospital diet scale. They are intended for the reception of 200 men, and stretchers, to be used as bedsteads are supplied for this number. Patients can be treated in them until such time as they are sufficiently recovered to bear the journey towards the base of operations without risk. They should be established in buildings, if possible but if none are available, tents are supplied.

The number of these hospitals which will be required on any particular campaign depends, naturally on the distance the troops advance into the country, on, in fact, the length of the lines of communication, and on the character of the roads and means of transport from the front to the base. If a railway be available, if the roads be good, or if a waterway can be used, fewer of them will be necessary. In any case they should be placed as near to the lines on which the sick convoys travel as possible.

The third line of medical assistance in a campaign consists of the general hospital at the base and hospital ships.

The general hospitals at the base of operations are as fully equipped as the similar institutions at home, and they are administered on the same lines. They accommodate either 400 or 500 men. To each is attached a military depot. Patients are treated in them until sufficiently recovered to be discharged to the military depots, whence they are sent to rejoin their corps at the front; or, if unlikely to be able to take any further part in the campaign they are invalided to England for disposal as permanently unfit for service, or for further treatment. As many of these hospitals as the number of sick and wounded coming from the front require are opened at the base.

Hospital ships are established at

places where the situation of the base of operations renders it possible, and the circumstances of the campaign make it advisable that they should be employed. They are supplementary to the general hospitals at the base, and are as perfectly equipped as stationary hospitals at home. They accommodate 200 men, with an additional fifty spare cots for emergencies. In connection with them steamships are employed for taking bad cases to England or elsewhere; these are specially fitted for the reception and treatment of sick and wounded men.

Two medical store depots are established in most campaigns; one at the base and one at the front near the most advanced stationary field hospital. The regimental officers, the bearer companies and the field hospitals replenish their supplies of drugs, surgical materials and instruments from the advanced medical store depot, and the latter is itself kept fully equipped from the one at the base, which receives its supplies direct from England.

All the nursing duties in the field hospital are performed by the men of the medical staff corps, while at the base hospitals and in the hospital ships the ladies of the army nursing service are employed as well.

The above, although a mere sketch of the medical arrangements laid down by regulation, will supply a fairly accurate idea of the means which are employed in warfare for the care and treatment of the sick and wounded. The regulations for the medical services give concise instructions as to how everything should be done. But rules must be made to give way to circumstances, and regulations cannot and need not be too rigidly adhered to when other methods of arrangement and distribution seem likely to produce better results.

AT WINTER QUARTERS.

Our labor as missionaries of the cause of Truth being in a section of country over which, many years ago, our pioneer brethren and sisters traveled, camped and enjoyed the meager comforts of a temporary home, while they were exiles in the wilderness, has awakened in us the desire to search for and examine the land marks they left behind them.

Between six and seven miles to the northwest is the little town of Florence, one of those land marks. It was here that four thousand or more of the noble and brave of persecuted Israel landed in the summer and fall of 1846, and founded Winter Quarters. From among this little band all the able bodied men and boys enlisted as part of the Mormon Battalion, volunteers to defend the rights of our country in the Mexican war, thus showing their love and devotion to the Union, though at the same time they or their families were not permitted to live in peace within the confines of the United States.

Florence, once Winter Quarters, is now a small place, uninviting in appearance and at a stand still as to enterprise. As we walked through the main street we noticed a barber's shop, two meat markets and two or three stores, which comprise the business portion of the city. The few inhabitants are living in a scattered condition. Most of the houses were in good condition. On a hill to the west is a nice brick school building. Florence supports three churches, viz: Episcopal, Christian and Presbyterian.

Our attention was directed here principally to look at the old burial ground where sleep the ashes of several hundred of those who so bravely fought and endured the trials of being plundered, burned out and insulted; re-