

Notes on the Medical Services of the British, French, German and American Armies.

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IV. THE GERMAN ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

THE great reputation which the German army made for itself in 1870-71 could hardly have been acquired but for the experience gained in the wars of 1864 and 1866. Hand in hand with the advances made in tactics, mobilization and supply, went the development of the field hospital service, the sanitation of camps and the transport of the sick and wounded. Hence first aid and subsequent treatment reached a stage of perfection not previously obtained by any other army in the field. The chief departure was the furnishing to each soldier a roller bandage and antiseptic pad. How many lives and limbs were thus saved it is impossible to estimate. In the German army the medical officers have equal rank with combatant officers, and are upon a footing of absolute equality with them. The medical division of the German War Ministry has its seat in Berlin, and is headed by a General-Stabartz with the rank of Major-General, who is charged with the general administration of the medical service. Each army corps has a General-Artz or Surgeon-General. Under him are Oberstabartze, Stabartze and Assistent Artze, ranking as Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels and Majors, but divisible into two grades, 1st and 2nd. There are also sub-surgeons and einjahriger, volunteers of one year. The apothecaries form an important branch of the medical service. They are presided over by a Oberstab-apoteker in each army corps. They have the standing of officers but are without relative rank. Bearer companies are not kept on a permanent footing as in England, probably because Germany is not likely to be plunged into little wars at any moment in any part of the world as we are. There are, however, a large number of male attendants maintained in time of peace called "Lazereth gehulffen." They are trained in first aid and minor surgery, and have the rank and pay of non-commissioned officers. In addition there are Kranken Warter, some five hundred or six hundred in number. A bearer company on a war footing consists of 7 medical officers, 1 paymaster, 1 apothecary, 3 officers of the