

DRESS. The weight of the infantry clothing and equipment, including rifle, ammunition, and special ration, was 56 pounds 13 ounces. Besides the ordinary greatcoat during cold weather, the officers and men, mobilized for the war (1894), had one made of brown blanketing, with a hood and special covering for the head, concealed under the collar, and a pair of mittens of the same material as the coat. It came down to the ankles and had a band to buckle around the waist. The men in the field had a paper shirt and a pair of drawers. In very cold weather these were worn between the usual under and over shirts and were said to be very warm. There was considerable suffering from ill fitting shoes and canvas gaiters and cotton socks. The knapsack was faulty and pressed unduly on the chest and armpit. The material of which the tunic and trousers were made was of blue cloth with stripes of different color to distinguish the different arms of the service.

It will be noticed that the Japanese are supplied with very adequate and liberal medical service, and General Taylor speaks in glowing terms of the devotion and bravery displayed by the bearers in bringing wounded men under fire. The free use of voluntary aid through the medium of the Red Cross Society is noticeable. I think that it is admitted that no nation maintains, even in time of war, a sufficient medical establishment to meet the requirements. It will be remembered that during the late South African war the St. John Ambulance Association supplied upwards of two thousand trained orderlies for hospital work, and that the Red Cross Society contributed more than three million dollars worth of supplies for the sick. It is painful to think what would have been the fate of the sick and wounded without this adventitious aid. We ought in this country to develop these societies, especially the ambulance association as a reserve for the Army Medical Corps, for trained orderlies cannot be improvised at a moment's notice.

Yours, etc.,

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