

that the supply of absorbent cotton, bandages, gauze, anæsthetics, iodine, and alcohol and similar necessities are utterly inadequate.

Servian hospitals ran short of anæsthetics three weeks ago and surgical operations there have since been performed while wounded were still conscious, according to Red Cross reports. Many deaths from shock of operations are reported. From nurses in French hospitals come such statements as "bandages, medicines and ambulance necessities are like the treasures of kings. Gauze and anti-tetanic serum are very difficult to get, and cotton is disappearing." It is also reported that there is a great shortage of surgical instruments in the field hospitals behind the armies.

"This country does not know the awful needs of medical supplies in Europe," said Cranton Brenton, New York war relief director of the Red Cross, recently. "Imagination cannot exceed the horrors resulting from the lack of them. We are doing all we can, but there is a great and pressing need of money to purchase these supplies."

In a war so vast as the present one it is impossible to cope with every need. The area covered and numbers engaged are so great that it surpasses anything known in the world's history. Nevertheless, all should give what assistance they can to mitigate the sufferings of those who are called upon to serve at the battles' fronts.

THE BELGIAN DOCTORS.

Every day brings fresh accounts of the terrible sufferings of the Belgians, and the conditions of the doctors of that country are deplorable in the extreme. If ever there was an opportunity for the medical profession throughout the world to vindicate its title to the noble profession, that opportunity has now come in the opening it affords of rendering help to their war-stricken confrères in Belgium.

The members of the medical profession in Britain and the United States have already effected organizations for the purpose of raising funds for the relief of Belgian doctors and druggists. A similar organization is being set on foot in this country, and we wish it every success. The indications are that the response will be a generous and prompt one.

We have instances of Belgian doctors who were enjoying the blessings of comfortable homes, who have been turned adrift and reduced to the direst distress. When one has brought home such cases, the words of Mark Antony assume a real meaning:

"Cry 'Havoc,' and let slip the dogs of war.