

medical officers; and in rear, 10. The front division of the bearer company does similar work to that of the regimental stretcher-bearers, *i.e.*, they render first aid and carry wounded to the collecting station. As they arrive at this point they are placed in one of the ten ambulance waggons in waiting and taken to the dressing station. Each waggon is in charge of a non-commissioned officer of the R.A.M.C. On arrival at the dressing station the wounded are unloaded and placed in two groups—on the right the severely wounded, and on the left the slightly wounded. The site of the dressing station is always sheltered, if possible near a good road and water, and not far from the collecting station. Here it is that the wounded receive proper treatment and primary operations are performed. At the close of the action the bearer companies search the woods and ditches for wounded. In Germany this work, at night, is done with the aid of dogs, on whose backs are first aid panniers and lamps.

From the dressing station the wounded are passed on to the *third line of assistance*, the Field Hospital. A Field Hospital is attached to each brigade, and on the line of march follows the bearer companies. These hospitals are mobile, and keep in close touch with the troops. After or during an action the site of a field hospital should be out of range of artillery fire and well sheltered. Buildings may be used, but churches should be avoided, as they are apt to be damp, cold and ill-ventilated. Their only advantage is their proximity to the graveyard. Collecting and dressing stations, field hospitals and bearer companies are under the Red Cross, but regimental bearers are not, for they carry arms and are available in case of necessity as combatants. In wars on savage peoples all ranks may have to fight, as, for instance, at Rorke's Drift. Hospitals fly the Geneva Red Cross flag by day, and show two white and one red lantern at night.

As soon as possible wounded are passed out of the Field Hospital into the *fourth line of assistance*, the Stationary Hospital. They are gradually drafted out of this into the *fifth line of assistance*, the General Hospital, a large hospital containing 400 beds, and in charge of a Colonel, R.A.M.C.

The *sixth line of assistance* is the hospital ship; and the *seventh and last* is the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley. The principal object in view, after treatment, is to "clear the front of wounded men," who impede the movement of the army.

Having said so much on the historical and other aspects of the Imperial Medical Service, permit me to add a little about the past and future of our own militia medical arrangements. It is strictly within the facts that our medical service is in a lamentable and unorganized condition. If we were suddenly plunged into war, we would suffer as serious disasters as befell