

bearer companies begin their work. The medical officer and his assistants are employed at the front under fire at the temporary dressing stations referred to, but the Japanese regulations require the regimental medical service to keep well closed up with the fighting line, and to conform to its movements. The equipment is similar to that carried by all armies, but is very liberally supplied. The medicines are of the usual European kinds, morphia, iodoform, Hoffman's anodyne etc.

THE BEARER COMPANY forms a divisional organization, consisting of a central administration and two subdivisions of three sections each, of a total strength of 416 officers and men and fifty-one horses. There are ten medical officers and four pharmacists. This column is under the control of the division commander, who is advised by the chief of the division medical staff. Each bearer column bears the name of the division to which it belongs, and is organized so that it can at any time be divided into two equal parts. Ordinarily, one-half marches with the advance guard and the other half in the main body. The function of the bearer company is to act between the dressing stations and the field hospitals.

THE DRESSING STATION is divided into three sections, indicated by flags of different colours. 1. Receiving and forwarding section, (blue flag). 2. Operating section, (white). 3. Dressing section, (red). The dressing stations are, in addition, distinguished by the the Geneva Red Cross flag by day, while they are marked by red lanterns at night. The identification of patients is secured by a metal label worn by all ranks. The registry of all property is also provided for. The medical and surgical equipment of the bearer column consists of four panniers, eight reserve panniers, ninety-six stretchers, and two tents, for the carriage of which thirty-six horses are allotted. The stretcher is made of bamboo with canvas bottom and moveable cross pieces. Most of the land carriage of patients is done with these stretchers and the native springless carts. There does not appear to be a provision for ambulances, though I understand a large number have been ordered from a firm in the United States for the purposes of the present war.

FIELD HOSPITALS. There are six field hospitals in each division, three are with the first line of transport and three with the second. Their function is to receive patients from the dressing stations, or directly from the fighting line, to continue or complete the treatment previously received, and to be prepared for rapid evacuation should it become necessary. The personnel of these field hospitals for each division consists of 48 officers, 108 non-commissioned officers, 510 men, and 264 horses. The quota of patients for each hospital is 200.