

The last Ashanti campaign was, you will remember, a "doctors' war." Nor would Khartoum have fallen, nor would Omdurman have been successfully fought but for the skilful foresight of the men who kept the troops in health in the trying climate of Upper Egypt. Thanks to the excellent medical arrangements, a tour of service in India is no longer a thing to be dreaded. The P. M. O. has also to arrange for the transport of the sick and wounded, no small matter in a difficult country, and to fix the sites of the field, stationary and general hospitals. Each division has also its P. M. O.

The *first line of assistance* to the wounded consists of the M. O. attached to the unit and his regimental medical staff, which is composed of one corporal, whose duties are to take charge of the panniers, which are usually carried on a mule; one orderly who carries the field companion and the surgical haversac. Four men per squadron, or two men per company, constitute the stretcher section. The medical equipment of the unit consists of one surgical haversac, one field companion, one water-bottle and a pair of panniers. The duties of the stretcher-bearers, when an action is pending, are, after placing their rifles in the regimental transport, to take the stretchers, and when occasion arises to render first aid, and carry the wounded man and his kit to the collecting station, beyond which they do not go, but at once rejoin their companies. Lord Wolseley says that when a man falls wounded there are ten men always ready to take him to the rear. I have found this to extend to dead bodies. The solicitude of men in action to get to the rear on a fair excuse is remarkable. The first aid dressing, which every man carries in the field, is done up in a waterproof cover, and is sewn up inside the man's tunic pocket. It consists (1896) of two safety pins, gauze bandage and piece of gauze, and a compress of charpie saturated with an antiseptic (bichloride of mercury). During the late Spanish-American war these first aid dressings are said to have saved many lives. At the collecting station the man is seen by the medical officer, who arrests hemorrhages and attaches a tally on which is stated the man's name, number, rank, regiment, wound, treatment, and any special instructions required, such as, 'look out for bleeding,' or to place the patient in a particular position. In the Italian army tallies of different colors are used for severe or slight injuries.

I now come to the *second line of assistance*, the Bearer Companies. They are departmental, and are formed by the Royal Army Medical Corps. They are divided in action as follows: In front (that is, in rear of the fighting line), 38 of all ranks; at the collecting station, or in charge of the waggons, 12; at the dressing station, 10, including three