

little towards its own support in food for men and horses. Its main artery of communication is a narrow-gauge railway, of the length of 725 miles, between Capetown and Bloemfontein, where the alleged atrocities are said to have taken place. Suddenly a hundred thousand soldiers and twenty thousand camp-followers are thrown into this country, already bare and hardly able to feed itself. Add to this twenty-five thousand horses, mules and oxen, all of whom, men and animals, have to be fed by this narrow-gauge railway. In addition there are munitions of war—horses, mules, guns and soldiers to be carried, besides miscellaneous hospital and personal stores, passengers, as well as food and merchandise for the residents of the country. With a limited rolling stock I leave it to you to imagine how difficult was the problem which confronted our army; a problem which was rendered still more difficult by interruption of communication by the blowing up of bridges. Then, almost without warning, a great epidemic of enteric fever broke out. In one day upwards of a thousand men were admitted to the hospital.

Would it be surprising that beds and bedding were hard to find, or that orderlies and nurses were over-worked? Naturally, under the circumstances, the field hospitals had to be utilized as stationary hospitals, though they are neither equipped nor intended for such work. The officers and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps rose to the occasion, and did magnificent work, heroically sacrificing themselves on the altar of duty, as is proved by the death and disability returns. In short, everything was done to meet the requirements of the emergency that circumstances permitted of, and there did not exist the neglect and misery so graphically and glibly set forth by certain untrustworthy politicians. No one was more keenly interested and sympathetic than the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Roberts, and I always found him most willing to grant every reasonable facility in getting up stores and comforts, and in aiding our work in every way.

The history of this war redounds to the credit of the medical officers, civil and military, who worked so faithfully, so energetically, and so successfully to alleviate suffering and assuage pain. The medical organization of the army is by no means perfect, and will require readjustment when the war is over. The medical officers should be given entire control of their supplies of medicines and drugs. They are now supplied by an ordnance department. Could anything be more absurd? There should be less red tape and more latitude in the purchase of comforts for the sick. A sufficiency of transport should be always available for the sick and wounded. The orderlies should receive higher pay and be recruited more carefully. The