

is impossible to speak too highly. We have had 500 cases pass through our hands, and can speak now from a fairly large experience. I had always imagined that in every large army there must be a minority of skulkers and shirkers, but they are singularly absent in the South African Field Force. I have not had more than two or three cases in my wards which bore a suspicion of malingering, and my colleagues say the same. They are uniformly patient, docile and cheerful, with an inextinguishable hope of "getting to Pretoria." There is a gallantry even about their delirium, for their delusion continually is that they have won the Victoria Cross. One patient, whom I found the other day rummaging under his pillow, informed me that he was looking for "his two Victoria Crosses." Very touching also is their care of each other. The bond which unites two soldier pals is one of the most sacred kind. One man shot in three places was being carried into Mr. Gibb's ward. I lent an arm to his friend, shot through the leg, who limped behind him. "I want to be next Jim, 'cos I'm lookin' after him," said he. That he needed looking after himself seemed never to have occurred to him.

THE SPECIAL HOSPITALS.

I do not think that any men have ever expended money better than those who fitted out the private hospitals. The officers of the Army Medical Department freely admit that they do not know what they would have done without their aid. They arrived out here at the very moment when the sickness was becoming alarming, and they took their share of the strain when the epidemic was at its height. The large general hospitals found it difficult to get to work on account of the pressure on the line which prevented them from getting up their bulky equipment, but the private hospitals, more compact and mobile, got to work almost at once after their arrival. The pressure was severe. Our own hospital, with equipment and *personnel* for 100 cases, had 150 cases, most of them virulent Paardeburg enterics, shot upon them, and had to cope with them as best they might. But the men had come out to work, and the orderlies, though untrained, never once grumbled at the great exertions which were called for. Without the Yeomanry, the Portland, the Irish, the Scotch, the Welsh and the other hospitals fitted up by private effort, and manned by volunteers, it is difficult to see how the epidemic could have been met.

THE WORK OF THE R.A.M.C.

There is sure to be some adverse criticism of the Army