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## EDITORIAL

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### THE CONDITION OF SERBIA.

" 'Tis strange, but true; for truth is always strange; stranger than fiction," said Byron. And the condition of Serbia is deeply more interesting than fiction. The case of that little country is very distressing, and should appeal to all. She was set upon without cause by Austria. Serbia had offered full reparation for the murder of the Archduke if it could be shown that any Serbians were guilty. Since the war broke out she has suffered all the horrors of war. Many of her strongest and bravest have been killed, and the country is filled with wounded and sick. In addition to the curse of war, Austria has given the country the curse of pestilence; for her army contained many who were infected with typhus fever. When these became prisoners of war they spread the germs broadcast and soldiers and civilians have suffered severely. This condition attracted the attention of a number of persons of means and influence, notably Sir Thomas Lipton and the Duchess of Talleyrand (Anna Gould).

By the efforts of these and the Red Cross, especially the American Red Cross, some much-needed and valuable assistance has been sent to that country. Of those that have gone several doctors and nurses have already succumbed to typhus fever. Dr. B. M. Cookingham, of New York State, gives an interesting account of the conditions found. There are some 300 doctors for a population of 3,000,000, or one for every 10,000. These doctors are not at all efficient in most instances.

Dr. Cookingham remarks that in the village of Valjevo the population was increased by over 6,000 due to the war. There were from 800 to 1,000 sick with only himself and an assistant to do all the work. They had very little hospital accommodation and almost no supplies. There were no nurses, and they had to make use of some Austrian prisoners as orderlies. For some time there were 150 deaths daily at Valjevo from typhus fever. This terrible condition was common throughout the country. Dr. Cookingham fell ill with typhus and had to lie on a miserable make-shift of a bed; but he recovered.