

The Woman's Quiet Hour

By E. Cora Hind

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The readers of the Quiet Hour have been doing fine work ever since the war opened. I make this assertion without fear of contradiction because I know the women of the West, though **The War** I do not know what anyone has been doing personally; but the efforts of the past will not suffice and the women of Canada are being called upon to make at least five times as much as they have ever made before of comforts and medical supplies for our wounded and sick soldiers.

In the past few months I have not said very much about the war, but now it seems as if there is no topic that can for a moment be considered beside it. Before going on to speak of what is needed in the way of supplies for the soldiers, let me say a word to my readers in the West of what the war really means. From letters that have come to me, it seems that a great many women do not understand exactly why this is Canada's war and particularly why the women of Canada should be straining every nerve to provide for wounded and sick soldiers.

To be sure this is the war of the British Empire and their Allies, but it is something more and closer than that. It is a war to establish the right of the weak against the strong. It is really a war to preserve civilization. I want to quote here a passage from the letter of a very prominent young doctor from Winnipeg who had been through the awful horrors of Langemarck and who, at the time he wrote this letter, was at a rest station after Ypres battle, where he was looking after 300 sick, not wounded, patients in a temporary hospital. He says:

"It rather shocks one to read in the papers how very easily the home people seem to be taking this war. If only a few of them could come over here and find how one is fighting for existence and that civilization is in danger of overthrow, they would perhaps think a little more about it. The Lusitania seems to be a fearful crime, but it is only the proximity of the affair that has awakened England. Horrors tenfold times worse than that are in our minds and ears here; of these, of course, I will tell you nothing. Of barbarism we are sick and filled with loathing."

It has been my privilege to speak for Red Cross work on a number of platforms and I want to put in this column what I have said at these gatherings, namely, that, if by any tragedy of fate, the arms of Britain and her Allies should be defeated, the women of Western Canada would, ere long, have to face the same horrors that have overtaken the women of Belgium, France and Poland. This is no exaggeration. Germany is bent on world conquest. Her policy is one of frightfulness and the present war and the work of Britain and her Allies is to defend the world from these monsters—the term is used advisedly. Every woman should read and read carefully the statement of Commissioner Bryce on the subject of German atrocities, not to fill her mind with horrors that she cannot prevent, but to realize the necessity of the triumph of British arms, if the whole world is to be preserved from the horrors which have overtaken the unfortunate people in the path of German conquest. Probably there is not a woman in Western Canada, or in Canada at all, who has a momentary doubt as to the final triumph of Britain and her Allies; but the task before them is gigantic, far more gigantic than we in Canada are able to realize and surely it is the part of the women who stay at home in safety—even though

the hearts of thousands of them are wrung by the separation from and the loss of their loved ones—to do everything in their power to assist the men at the front by seeing that they are as comfortable as possible and that every known comfort is provided for them when wounded.

There are two distinct organizations which take care of wounded and sick soldiers. They are the "Army Medical Service" and the "Red Cross." The Army Medical Service is a part of the army and many of its members rank as officers

and the whole service is subject to the same discipline as any private in the ranks. It is the special duty of this Service Corps to look after military hospitals and these hospitals are managed from an army department and were supposed to supply all the necessities of hospitals. Canada's Hospital Department was in Ottawa. The Army Medical Service, going on the traditions of past wars, issued their supplies to military hospitals on the basis of, one soldier, one wound; but this was very speedily found to be no use. The present war has shattered all previous records. Many a man has received as many as twelve and fifteen wounds and is recovering. When it is realized that one shrapnel wound may require ten or twelve yards of bandages, and when it is further realized that in less than five days one dressing station, namely, that of the Third Field Ambulance which was manned by seven doctors from Winnipeg and two from Brandon, dressed 5,210 wounds, we get some very faint idea of the enormous quantities of medical supplies needed.

It is amazing how rapidly the Army Medical Service has re-adjusted its basis and the wonderful things that it has done. The Canadian west can never be sufficiently proud of the members that it has sent in the Army Medical Service. They have been truly giants in the work that they have accomplished. I want the women, however, to remember that medical dressings must be made by hand. They cannot be made in factories. Therefore, even the Army Medical Service is dependent on the women for dressings. The standard dressings which were formerly used are no longer suitable and new specifications for dressings are to be issued, in fact, they are being prepared at the present time.

The work of the Red Cross is auxiliary to the Army Medical Service. In passing it might be remarked that they both carry the same symbol, that of a Maltese cross of scarlet on a white field. The Red Cross is only allowed to go to the clearing hospitals, which are located some twelve miles from the firing line. It is the business of the Red Cross to supplement in every way the work of the field hospitals. These must be mobile, moving with the firing line and therefore do not carry any more equipment than is necessary, having this supplemented constantly by motor lorries which travel from the base hospitals and supply stations to the field hospitals. The Red Cross, by the Army Medical Service, has also been asked to establish some hospitals of its own. It has one at Shorncliffe, one at Clivedon, England, and a station in Boulogne, from which the field hospitals are supplied. These hospitals are under the command of a captain of the permanent forces.

Now, what is the work of the women of the West with regard to Red Cross?

(Continued on Page 34.)

Could Not Bend Down On Account of Backache.

Mr. J. A. Lubiniecki, Dauphin, Man., writes: "It is my pleasure to write you in regard to Doan's Kidney Pills which I have been using for some time for kidney trouble, which used to affect my back so that at times I could not bend down, nor could I walk straight. I learned about your pills from your Almanac, and I bless the happy hour I thought of buying this medicine. One time a druggist persuaded me to buy ———'s Kidney Pills, saying they were just as good, in fact he guaranteed they were. I yielded to his advice, and what was the result? I had bearing down pains in my back for two days, so I took the balance of the pills unused to the druggist, and told him to give me Doan's Kidney Pills as they would stop the pain in 12 hours at the outside. He told me he was sorry I did not use more of the pills, and lengthen the time to await results. I told him there is no need of waiting with Doan's Pills, they go right to the spot. No substitute for me."

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