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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

SICK AND WOUNDED IN WAR AND HOW THEY ARE CARED FOR.

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Like all other departments or branches of the army, the medical service as it exists to-day, in England, is the outcome of a gradual process of evolution. "It costs more to cure a soldier than to levy a recruit." This quotation expresses the sentiment of the 15th and early part of the 16th centuries. Officers and soldiers of adventure with means could usually secure help, but the poorer soldiers when severely wounded were given a small gratuity and left to find their way home as best they might.

At the close of the last century there really existed no special arrangement for the removal of the wounded. On the battle fields of earlier days thousands of lives were lost for want of help. During the campaigns of Marlborough it was generally considered effeminate to be ill. From even such crude notions progress was slow, not from lack of enthusiasm, of courage or of skill on the part of the Army surgeon, but rather owing to the fact that little attention was given for a long time by the authorities to rescuing and succoring the sick or those wounded in battle. And again, the one great object naturally of the commander-in-chief then as now, was to overcome the enemy, and to accomplish this every available man must be kept on the fighting strength and no one allowed to go to the aid of his luckless mate. When a man fell wounded, if the troops were actively engaged, he remained unheeded on the ground until the fighting was over. Apropos of this apparently cold blooded action on the part of Commanders-in-chief, it might be mentioned that when one fell wounded there was a tendency for two or three or more to fall back to help him. Naturally such unsteadiness

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