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LECTURE.

Friday, May 19, 1876.

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM CODRINGTON, G.C.B., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

THE CONVENTION OF GENEVA, AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES FOR AID TO SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN WAR.

By JOHN FURLEY, Esq.

MORE than once I have been requested to address a public audience on the subject chosen for to-day; but I have hitherto declined to do so, feeling that it might be considered presumptuous in me to offer suggestions on a matter which is more particularly within the province of members of the military and medical professions, or more properly still, perhaps, of persons possessing a combination of qualities which belong to both. But I have waited in vain for somebody more fitted than myself to undertake this duty, and I now ask for every indulgence, whilst I endeavour in the brief time allowed me to draw attention to the Convention of Geneva, as well as to what the National Societies for Aid to Sick and Wounded Soldiers in War have already accomplished, and what will be expected of them in the event of another war.

Although anxious to avoid obtruding my own individuality as little as possible, I shall not be misunderstood when I say, that nothing but my own personal experience on the subject I am about to discuss, gives me any right to appear here to day. This experience dates from the Schleswig-Holstein war in 1864, when I first learnt to appreciate the value of volunteer assistance in military hospitals; and it was greatly extended during the Franco-German war. Subsequently, I was attached to the Army of Marshal MacMahon during the war of the Commune; and more recently I have served with Spanish ambulances both in the Army of the Government of Madrid, and in that of Don Carlos.

And here let me anticipate any expression of opinion that Red Cross Societies ought to hold aloof from civil war and rebellion. It is undoubtedly right that the national societies of countries not immediately affected by a civil war should abstain from any active in-

terference in it: but it is quite otherwise with those principally concerned, as the French Société de Secours aux blessés militaires during the Commune, and the Spanish Society in the Carlist war; especially when, as in the former, the insurgents were practically acknowledged as belligerents by M. Thiers, and in the latter when the Alphonists and Carlists mutually treated each other as on an equal footing. No person who was a daily witness of the awful horrors of the Paris Commune, or who has served as an ambulance volunteer on battle-fields in the north of Spain will be inclined to assert that wounded Communists and Carlists had no right to any sympathy. Humanity protests against such a conclusion. To their honour be it recorded that some of the most prominent members of the French Société de Secours remained at their posts in Paris throughout the whole period of the Commune, and relieved the sufferings of hundreds of Communists, whilst their colleagues were at Versailles, engaged in the same manner amongst the soldiers of the Government and the wounded prisoners who fell into their hands. And so with regard to Spain, the Red Cross Society of Madrid and the members of the *Caridad* (a Carlist society, of which the Doña Margarita was the President) made no difference between friends and foes.

It is quite unnecessary to recapitulate the history of the Convention of Geneva. An attempt to do so would almost involve a history of war itself. It had long been acknowledged that no Army ever possessed medical and sanitary means equal to the exigencies of a great campaign; and this feeling culminated in the splendid voluntary efforts which were made to relieve the sick and wounded soldiers during the Crimean war, and in the war between the Northern and Southern States of America. Notwithstanding the universal conviction as to the insufficiency of all official means for carrying off wounded men from the field, applying temporary relief and subsequent attendance in the hospitals, no attempt was made to obtain the opinion of the civilized nations of the world as to the best manner in which to meet this great want, until the year 1863, when the first Conference was held at Geneva. From this meeting emanated the Convention which was adopted on the 22nd August in the following year.

But even were it necessary to remind my audience of the various circumstances which gradually led to the Congress at Geneva, when that Convention was framed which less than a year afterwards was accepted by nearly all the States of Europe, I should have good reason for hesitating to do so.

In 1866, from the place I have now the honour to occupy, Deputy Inspector-General Longmore, C.B., Professor of Military Surgery at the Army Medical School, at Netley, described, in language and with an authority to which I cannot pretend, the development of that idea which found expression at the International Conferences held at Geneva in 1863 and 1864.¹ At Berlin, Paris, Vienna; and elsewhere, during the last ten years, I have assisted at the official meetings at which the Convention has been discussed, modified, and extended; and I am glad to have this occasion to bear testimony in presence of my

¹ See Journal of the Institution, vol. x, p. 162, *et seq.*

own countrymen to the important influence which Mr. Longmore has exercised upon the deliberations of those who have borne forward and marched under the Red Cross Flag. I can personally testify to the fact that there is not in Europe an army hospital establishment, or a society for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers in which the valuable assistance rendered by Professor Longmore is not acknowledged; and there is not one in which his professional brethren and all those who, like myself, have had the honour to be associated with him, do not admit he is one of the very few representatives of different nationalities who thoroughly understand the Convention of Geneva in all its bearings, both civil and military, and under whose cautious guidance the humanitarian theories which were advocated at Geneva, have become accomplished facts. I am quite aware that this mention of his name would not be in harmony with the characteristic modesty which so distinguishes the gentleman of whom I am speaking; but as one of the rank and file of the Red Cross army, I could not forego this opportunity of paying a humble tribute to one of the worthiest, most conscientious, and most honourable of our chiefs.

Has the Convention of Geneva succeeded in accomplishing that which its promoters expected of it? It may be unhesitatingly affirmed that it has done so. In some respects, perhaps, it has partially failed in its objects, whilst in others, those who without authority, have adopted it, have gone far beyond the limits which this international agreement was intended to define: but on the whole the opinion of the civilized world has prevailed, hundreds of lives have been saved, and comfort and consolation have been brought to wounded and dying men by the intervention, not only of accredited volunteers, but of irregular helpers, who have boldly taken possession of an agreement that was never designed to give them the benefits of neutrality in war, however benevolent their intentions might be.

The good effects of the first Conference held at Geneva were immediately made evident in the Schleswig-Holstein campaign. In February, 1864, nearly six months before the King of Prussia signed the Convention, a society was formed at Berlin, and an appeal was made to the nation on behalf of the sick and wounded soldiers. This undoubtedly contributed to the success of the second Congress held in the same year.

The Convention was tried cautiously, and on a comparatively small scale during the short campaign in Bohemia in 1866, but this could not be considered a decisive trial, as Austria had not then signed the Treaty. The Prussian Red Cross Society, however, gave good proof of its labours during the two years that had elapsed since its formation. On the day the battle of Langensalza was fought, in response to a telegram stating that there were 1,500 wounded men lying on the field in want of the simplest necessities, three special trains laden with surgical aid and hospital material, left Berlin at midnight. The work then performed by the Prussian Society was sanctioned by the Government, and its agents in the field were under military control.

But although such societies had been established in several countries,

with the approval of their respective Governments, it was not until the year 1870 that the Red Cross assumed a position that had never been contemplated even by its most sanguine adherents.

At the very commencement of the war, France and Germany were covered with a network of aid committees. This contagious benevolence spread to other countries, which, though remaining at peace, determined to do their share towards the relief of the sufferers in a war that was evident would soon count its victims by thousands. Everybody talked of and worked for the Red Cross. Funds were liberally subscribed; immense depôts of gifts in kind were formed, and rich and poor contributed their pence, their pounds, and the work of their own hands to this novel undertaking, which appealed so irresistibly to the genuine sympathies of all. In a word, one great international impulse seized upon the Convention of Geneva, and gave to its articles the meaning which best satisfied humanity.

It was not only in France and Germany that volunteer societies, for the relief of the victims of the war, entered on the campaign simultaneously with the combatant troops which were marching towards the Rhine. Volunteers from almost every State in Europe which possessed a Red Cross Society, at once enrolled themselves under the new flag, and appealed to their compatriots for material assistance. Belgian, Dutch, and Swiss doctors, nurses, and ambulance helpers immediately appeared on the field, and others soon followed.

When the rival Armies of France and Germany first came into collision, in the month of July, 1870, England had no such Society; but in the first week of August we had one, with a fund which was rapidly assuming large proportions, and a numerous band of volunteers, in presence of whom the only difficulty was one of selection.

The circumstances connected with the establishment of the British National Society for Aid to Sick and Wounded in War, are so well known that it is unnecessary I should trace its origin or describe all that it accomplished in 1870-1. But I may be allowed to recall certain facts, a forgetfulness of which has encouraged the belief that the British Society was formed only for the Franco-German war, and that it will remain in abeyance until another international war shall again call it into a state of activity.

At the first public meeting of the Society, held at Willis's Rooms, on the 4th of August, 1870, it was resolved, "That persons be admitted as Members of the Society on payment of £5 donation, or 5s. annual subscription." At the same meeting the two following resolutions were also adopted:—"That a Central Committee of 21 Members be appointed to assist in carrying out the objects of the Society. That the said Committee be annually elected, by rules similar to those of the National Rifle Association. That Sub-Committees of the Society be established in various parts of the country, and that these Sub-Committees regulate their own subscriptions, manage their own affairs, defray their own expenses, and transmit to the Central Committee such contributions as they are able to collect, and such material as may be suggested from time to time by the Central Committee."

Now, these resolutions were framed with the intention of making

the Society a permanent institution in this country, on the broadest possible basis.

It is not perhaps surprising that, when the war was concluded which had brought the Society into existence, and which had taxed to the utmost the strength and energy of the London Committee and all who had been actively employed as its agents, these resolutions were forgotten, and those who had laboured under the able direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, U.C., M.P.—whose name will ever be honourably associated with the grand effort which England then made in the cause of humanity—were only too glad to furl their banner and return to those avocations from which they had been drawn.

No one will, I think, venture to predict that wars have for ever ceased, or even, looking towards the eastern horizon, that we have entered upon a long period of peace. Whether in any future war we may be engaged as principals or spectators, the moment it breaks out, attention will naturally turn towards the British National Aid Society, and much will be expected of it. Undoubtedly the call will meet with a generous response; but the same lenient criticism that was accorded to the work in 1870 must not be expected. At the outbreak of the Franco-German war, as I have already remarked, there was no British National Aid Society, but the sympathy of the nation made the formation of one a comparatively easy task. Volunteers, money, and gifts in kind were speedily dispatched to the seat of war. The result was grand, but such an experiment can never be repeated.

I make this assertion advisedly, and after the most careful consideration. What an English society might do in supplementing the work of our military medical establishment, in time of war, and what it will be allowed to do, in the same capacity, for foreign Armies, are two different matters. But they are questions that must be settled, if the Society is to be a permanent and an useful institution.

The Crimean war afforded an example of what English men and women will do for their own soldiers; and British energy and philanthropy will, I trust, always be equal to even greater trials than that was. But the Crimean war brought home to us all two facts of which the promoters of the Convention of Geneva did not fail to make use: namely, that no Army can possess in itself a hospital establishment and sanitary means equal to the emergencies of a sanguinary campaign, and that no satisfactory supplement to it can be extemporized at a moment's notice. All that individual devotion and public generosity could accomplish for our sick and wounded soldiers was witnessed in 1855-6. And if the necessity should unfortunately again arise, this would be repeated. But "*para bellum*" is a good motto, even when applied to military hospitals and Red Cross societies.

What I have just said refers more especially to the relations which have existed, and which may again be created, between volunteer hospital helpers and our own Army. This is the easiest part of the question to which a solution is required. But the Convention of Geneva affords the benefit of reciprocal neutrality to all non-combatants who may be serving in the hospitals of belligerent Armies. Such persons are now distinguished by an armlet, with a red cross on

a white ground, which is generally believed to be given to them under the authority of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army to which they are officially attached, but which, in 1870, were manufactured and distributed in the most indiscriminate manner. I need say no more as to the way in which this Article of the Convention was treated in 1870, only now remarking that, whether it be for our own Army or for that of a foreign State, it is quite impossible properly to comply with this or any other of the provisions of the Convention of Geneva at the outbreak of wars carried on as rapidly as they now are, unless all the preliminary arrangements have been settled in time of peace.

I have already spoken of the general ignorance that prevails as to the Articles of the Geneva Treaty. Fortunately, this was of little consequence during the Franco-German war, and the fullest latitude was allowed to those who were attending to the sick and wounded on the field, and in the numerous hospitals which were scattered over France. An agent of the British Society determined to accomplish his mission could go almost where he pleased, without meeting with any obstacle sufficiently serious to stop him. German sentries or French franc-tireurs might cause delays, or a siege might compel him to alter his course; but in other respects his liberty of action was almost complete.

But this freedom must not be entirely attributed to the benevolent consideration which Generals and Commanding Officers are willing to bestow on all persons engaged in hospital work. As was said by the late Dr. Löffler, Surgeon-General in the Prussian Army, "*la tactique 'prime la philanthropie;'*" and as long as there are wars, so long will humanity suffer from countless concomitant evils. Unless Generals are in a position which permits them to be generous, they must not be expected to bestow much thought on any but combatant followers. Hence it is necessary that every branch of an Army should be an integral part of the whole; and even a volunteer ambulance should be under strictly military discipline, and attached to a division or brigade.

But the Franco-German war, from which the best experience of the working of the Convention of Geneva and the Red Cross Societies can be drawn, was altogether an exceptional campaign, and this not so much on account of its magnitude as by reason of the one-sided character of its principal results. Even the most sanguine anticipations of the conquerors were surpassed by the first engagements, and situations were created which had never been foreseen by the advocates of the Geneva Treaty. The framers of this international agreement had not imagined, that in the event of a war almost all the States of Europe would send delegates to the relief of the victims. There is not a single paragraph in the Convention, or in the Articles which were subsequently added to it, which refers in any way to the presence with belligerent armies of a body of volunteer helpers from neutral States with stores intended for use in field-ambulances and stationary hospitals. The peculiar character of the Franco-German war made the introduction of this novel element comparatively easy; and, looking at the results, it would be hypercritical now to examine too severely

the free and easy manner in which the objects of the subscribers to the various Red Cross Societies were accomplished. One of the belligerents was so completely overmatched by the other, that the latter could afford to allow considerable liberty of action to those who had come with vast stores to aid in relieving the thousands of victims who were scattered over the country from the Rhine to the Loire and the Seine. No doubt the German head-quarter staff would have preferred the *matériel* without the *personnel*; but as these could not be separated, they accepted the arrangement which was imposed upon them, and regarded with considerable indulgence the "eccentricities" of this new feature of modern warfare."

As far as possible complete impartiality was observed by the conquerors in the treatment of the sick and wounded of both armies; but it must be borne in mind that, owing to the course of the war, almost the whole of the neutral assistance was absorbed by the Germans. A separate and exact partition between the belligerents was impracticable after the first few weeks of the campaign, and no share intended exclusively for the French hospitals, with the remarkable exception of the 20,000*l.* carried into Paris by Lieutenant-Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, could reach them, as they were completely blockaded on all sides except towards the south.

The greater part of the share of assistance intended by volunteer societies for France found its objects in the hundreds of wounded prisoners who were left amongst the Germans. Both sides enjoyed the benefit of extraneous aid, and it is impossible to calculate the number of lives saved by this means. But those who were shut up in towns which were besieged could not derive any of the assistance from without. This isolation in some places was of short duration; in Belfort and Strasbourg it was for a longer period, whilst in Metz it lasted rather more than two months, and in Paris for five months.

Nothing better exemplifies the status of volunteer ambulances from neutral States during the Franco-German war than that of the Dutch Society, which was under the direction of M. Van de Velde.

This gentleman, accompanied by four or five surgeons, a secretary, and one or two other persons, arrived at Versailles about the 12th September, 1870. At this time the Red Cross Committee of that town, of which M. Horace Delaroche was president, had established a hospital of 105 beds in one of the numerous wings of the palace. The whole establishment was immediately offered to M. Van de Velde, as it was evident that Versailles was about to become the head-quarters of a German army-corps, and it would be useful to have a hospital there under the protection of citizens of a neutral State. There were then six wounded men and nineteen cases of typhus, all Frenchmen, in the hospital. A few hours later there was fighting in the neighbourhood of Versailles, and M. Van de Velde and some of his staff went out in the direction of the firing. On their return in the afternoon they

¹ Inspecteur-Général Dr. Chenu, at the Conference held at Geneva in 1863, said, in reference to the employment of volunteer hospital assistants, "*L'Amérique seule peut se permettre de telles excentricités.*" Since that time no person has worked more zealously than he has done with volunteers under the Red Cross flag.

found that Versailles had capitulated, and the chief of the Prussian medical staff of the 3rd Army Corps, Dr. Kirchner, had taken possession of the chateau, including the Dutch ambulance, and was then establishing a large German hospital. The twenty-five sick and wounded Frenchmen actually in the chateau were removed to other houses in the town, and the acting *personnel* were requested to obey the new chief. M. Van de Velde contended that this was a violation of the Convention of Geneva; but he was answered by a reference to the explicit instructions laid down for the sanitary service of the Prussian Army; according to which, voluntary aid to the sick and wounded cannot be independent of the Army, but it must be incorporated with the organisation established by the Government, and directed by its Officers in order to avoid any interference with official action.

I repeat that no Article in the Convention of Geneva refers even remotely to the supplies of neutral volunteer societies. However, this was not the belief in 1870, and I can best illustrate some of the difficulties which arose by the following example which occurs to me.

Paris was closely invested. Nothing was allowed to be sent in for the use of the hospitals, and it may be said that nothing was absolutely wanting in them. A convoy of goods intended for the *dépôt* of the English Society at Versailles, and under the command of Mr. Thomas was stopped at Vernon, and only such articles as were evidently for hospital use were allowed to be taken on. Food, and there were many cases of biscuits, was absolutely prohibited. This was indignantly pronounced to be a contravention of the Convention of Geneva. But even supposing it had been so, I think it would not have been surprising if persons who, perhaps, had never even read that document, had regarded such a cargo with suspicion, and had argued that if their enemy prevented anything from entering Paris, they had a perfect right to do their best to blockade the head-quarters of that enemy.

Let me offer another illustration which will still further exemplify my meaning. We all remember what heroic efforts were made, especially by the women of England, for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers in the Crimea. Red Cross Societies had not then been established; but supposing they had been in existence, is it likely that the English and French besiegers would have allowed hospital supplies to have passed through their lines into Sebastopol, or would their enemy have permitted similar stores to have been sent over Russian territory to the hospitals of the allied armies? I think not, and yet this was the sort of benevolence which in 1870 it was imagined would be tolerated under the Red Cross Flag.

Notice of bombardment is, or should be, always given to the inhabitants of a town before any shots are fired into it, in order to allow time for the departure of non-combatants, and aged and sick persons. But when once a siege has been commenced, in the interests of humanity it is not desirable that this should be prolonged by any sentimental considerations.

Thus far I have endeavoured briefly to call to mind the origin of the Convention of Geneva, and the manner in which the Red Cross

Flag first gained a position on the battle-field. I have also described how this treaty, which was only intended to cover sick and wounded soldiers and the *personnel* and *matériel* of military ambulances and hospitals in time of war, was invoked in 1870 for the protection of independent volunteer helpers and stores from neutral States.

I propose now to devote a short time to these two important questions.

1stly. Can the Convention of Geneva be maintained in its present form, or is it desirable that it should be modified or extended?

2ndly. How can the British National Aid Society be so employed in time of peace as to be in a fit state to supplement the hospital service of the British Army if called upon to do so in time of war?

Now, however much this celebrated Treaty of Geneva may be open to criticism, I do not think that any assembly in the civilized world would vote for its abrogation. The treaty itself is clear and distinct; and almost all the mistakes which have been committed under its *assumed* sanction have arisen from ignorance of its Articles, and the pardonable zeal of persons who have adopted the spirit of that international agreement rather than the letter.

Few persons have read this document; and the vague notions which exist as to the general meaning of the treaty were still further confused by the irregularities which were permitted to "benevolent neutrals" during the Franco-German war.

Whatever may have been suggested before or since the adoption of the Convention of Geneva, the first words of the first Article in it expressly define the limits to which this agreement was intended to be confined. They are as follows:—"Military ambulances and hospitals shall be acknowledged to be neutral, and, as such, shall be protected and respected by belligerents, &c." As was said by Professor Longmore in 1867, and repeated by him in this theatre in 1872,¹ "The treaty only comprehended the military ambulances and hospitals of the belligerents, the staff employed in attending the sick and wounded contained in them, and the materials necessary for their proper treatment. Its articles did not provide for any volunteer or independent staff of hospital assistants; and such persons could only participate in the provisions of the Treaty by being regularly admitted into the hospital service, and forming for the time being part of the military establishments of the armies engaged, and thus becoming subject to the ordinary rules and articles of war. These latter would then come within the provisions of the treaty, because then they would be comprised in the *personnel* of the military hospitals, as laid down in the second article of the treaty." At the Congress of 1864, it was unanimously determined by the official delegates then present, to exclude from the text of the convention that part of the circular note which had been sent by Switzerland to the Governments of all civilized countries, which suggested the neutralization of voluntary hospital assistants recruited by aid committees, and to confine the neutralization to the official sanitary *personnel* of the hospitals of the belligerents.

¹ See *Journal*, vol. xvi, p. 206, *et seq.*

Enough has been said to prove the manner in which the agreement was infringed during the Franco-German war. If no personal assistance had been given to the hospitals of the belligerents by the societies of neutral States, there would have been little necessity for any reconsideration of the Treaty of Geneva. This document is sufficiently explicit for all the purposes for which it was intended, namely, the neutralization of military hospitals and ambulances in time of war. But a precedent was set, which, though attended with excellent results from a humanitarian point of view, only escaped introducing a most serious international complication by the force of circumstances, which were exceptionally favourable to the philanthropic experiment which was then made. Such an occasion might be repeated; but I, for one, cannot believe it will arise.

A flood-gate has been opened which can never again be closed; and I feel no hesitation in asserting, that the Convention of Geneva cannot be maintained in its present form, unless the position, in time of war, of the volunteer *personnel* of national societies—other than those of the contending nations—with regard to the hospitals and ambulances of the belligerents be clearly and unequivocally defined.

The second question is: How can the British National Aid Society be so employed in time of peace as to be prepared to supplement the hospital service of the British Army if called upon to do so in time of war?

This proposition is purposely limited to the connection which ought to exist between the Society and the Army, because this should be the paramount object.

I will briefly describe what the Continental Societies have done, and are doing. Their work includes much that does not strictly belong to the province of Red Cross Societies; but a general description of their labours will perhaps lead by inference to a more useful and practical solution for ourselves, than any dogmatic expression of my own could possibly do.

The International Exhibition, held in Paris in 1867, gave an opportunity to France to exhibit the practical side of the humanitarian ideas developed by the Convention of Geneva. On the initiative of Count Sérurier, who was one of the earliest promoters of that Treaty, and who is still one of the most zealous and indefatigable representatives of the Red Cross, a large exhibition of hospital and sanitary material was organized; and, in connection with this, a Conference was held, which was virtually the starting point of the activity which has been displayed by the National Aid Societies of Europe.

The Société de Secours aux Blessés des Armées de Terre et de Mer has made remarkable progress since the war of 1870-1.

Notwithstanding the enormous amount of work which devolved on the members of the Paris Central Committee in that terrible year, they have not once discontinued their labours. What was done by the Society during the Franco-German war can be gathered from the voluminous statistical report of Dr. Chenu, Inspector-General of Ambulances. Immediately after the war, there was the repatriation

of the French wounded, who had been prisoners in Germany; and this was accomplished under the personal direction of Baron Mundy and M. Albert Ellissen. Nor even then did the Central Committee consider that its duties towards the victims of the war were at an end.

Artificial limbs and costly surgical appliances were provided for those who had been mutilated, and pensions were granted to invalids, as well as to widows, orphans, and the aged parents of those who had died in the service of their country. The graves of the dead were also carefully marked, and in some places monuments were erected.

In 1873, an exhibition of hospital and sanitary material was held in Paris, and six *diplômes d'honneur*, eleven gold, thirty-one silver, and sixty bronze medals were awarded by the Society for the best inventions which could be utilized in hospital work. It was then that the kitchen-waggon was first introduced; and the time will assuredly come when no ambulance column will be considered complete without such a carriage. I may add, that this model, constructed by M. Kelluer, of Paris, is one of the admirable inventions chiefly due to the ingenuity and indomitable energy of Baron Mundy.

But certainly one of the most important steps of the French Society was taken in April, 1874, when a conference of delegates from all the departments in France was held in Paris. Resolutions were then adopted which, whilst recognising the superior control of the Paris Central Committee, allowed each of the Provincial Committees certain freedom of action, and the disposal of its local funds, with the exception of a fixed proportion which is to be sent annually to the Treasurer of the Central Fund.

At this meeting it was also suggested by M. Albert Ellissen that eighteen centres of action should be established corresponding to the head-quarters of each of the Army-Corps, and that eighteen *dépôts* of hospital material should be formed.

The material of a divisional ambulance is to be composed as follows:—

- One omnibus.
- One large fourgon.
- One small fourgon.
- One kitchen-waggon.
- Five ambulance carriages.
- One carriage for medical and surgical stores.
- One box of surgical instruments.
- Fittings, &c., for the large fourgon.
- Fittings, &c., for the small fourgon.
- 19 furnished hampers for the fourgons.
- 50 stretchers.

The total cost of each divisional ambulance to be 30,000 francs (£1,200).

It was also proposed that a delegate of the Society should be attached to the General commanding each military territorial division.

Many other propositions were made, including one for the formation of a special institution where medical students and nurses should

receive practical instruction on all subjects connected with field-hospital work.

I have thus briefly indicated some of the principal points to which the French Society has devoted its attention since 1871.

I have already alluded to what Germany in general, and Prussia in particular, have done towards the development of volunteer hospital relief in time of war. The interval which elapsed between the Danish war in 1864 and the outbreak of the war in 1870 had been well employed by the Berlin and other German committees; and the experience gained in the seven weeks' war of 1866 was not without value. The Franco-German war was declared on the 17th of July; on the 19th the Central Committee of Berlin made an appeal to the nation; on the 20th it announced that gifts to the Society, whether sent direct to the principal depôts or addressed to the different army corps, would be conveyed free on all the State railroads. At the same time the King of Prussia appointed Prince Pless as Royal Commissioner and Military Inspector of Volunteer Assistance. He was to be the medium between the Aid Societies and the Army in the field; and it is well to call attention to the fact that he alone had the right to distribute the Red Cross brassards, and to give authority to wear them. Under Prince Pless a delegate was attached to the head-quarters of each Army operating in an independent manner; and one was also appointed to every corps of such Army. Besides these were sub-delegates at the different Etapes, and others whom it is unnecessary to specify.

All the principal offices in this volunteer department were held by men of position, who, like Prince Pless, were members of the Order of St. John, or of that of Malta, the former (Johanniter Ritter) being Protestant, and the latter (Malteser Ritter) Roman Catholic.

During the war of 1870-1 there were in Germany 25 principal, 1,956 sectional committees, with more than 250,000 members, all working more or less under the direction of the Berlin Central Committee.

The Central Comité der Deutschen Vereine zur Pflege im Felde verwundeter und erkrankter Krieger differs from the French Central Committee in many respects; but there is one very important point of dissimilarity. The French Society not only devotes itself to sick and wounded soldiers and sailors in war, but, as I have already said, it grants pensions to invalids, and to the widows and children of those who have died in war or from its effects. The German Red Cross Societies do not directly undertake this branch of relief, but they leave it to sister societies, which work in connection with them. Of these the principal is the Kaiser Wilhelm Stiftung, an institution which supplements the pensions given by the State to disabled Officers and soldiers, and their widows and children.

However, it seems that the German Societies now intend to admit within the sphere of their labours in time of peace, such calamities as may be caused by fire, inundation, or epidemics.

Amongst the German Societies auxiliary to that of the Red Cross may be mentioned the Ladies' Societies (Deutscher Frauen Hülf und Pflege Vereine) of Berlin, Munich, Dresden, Stuttgart, Darmstadt, and Carlsruhe. In consideration of the services rendered by these, in

the training of nurses and hospital assistants, who may be employed in time of war, subventions are granted by the Central Committee. It would be difficult, even if it were necessary, to enumerate all the different institutions which are thus working, directly or indirectly, for the objects of the Red Cross. Incidentally I may name the Deaconesses' Institution at Bielefeld, the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Victoria-Stiftung at Insterburg, the Mutterhaus at Kiel, the Sanitary Institution at Loschwitz, near Dresden, of which Madame Simon is the directress, the asylum for female nurses at Frankfort-on-the-Main, and the Augusta Hospital at Berlin.

The title of this last most excellent institution reminds me that no account, however incomplete, of what the Germans are doing to alleviate the sufferings caused by war would be just, did it omit to acknowledge that the Empress Augusta is not only the President of the German Central Society *de jure*, but also *de facto*. In every way, by word and example, she has encouraged and urged forward the work both in peace and in war; and whether at Berlin or in the provinces, she seems to regard any fatigue as light which enables her to assist it by a gracious act. Nor is Her Majesty less generous with her purse. During the Conference held in the Red Cross Pavilion at the Universal Exhibition of Vienna, in 1873, she awarded twenty gold medals for the best models of hospitals and surgical appliances for the relief of wounded soldiers, a prize of £300 for the best essay on the Convention of Geneva, and a prize of similar value, and two prizes of £75 for the best manuals of military surgery. Of the medals not one came to England, which was scarcely represented in this department of the Exhibition: but it is satisfactory to know that Surgeon-Major Porter, Assistant Professor of Military Surgery at the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, gained one of the prizes for his treatise on military surgery.

The work of the German Red Cross and kindred societies is far too extensive to allow of its being described in detail in one short paper; but I may mention one important fact that deserves to be noticed. Quite recently in every province of Germany a corps of *kranken träger* (bearers) has been enrolled and attached to the army-corps of that province. Each man is furnished with a uniform, and he is paid a small annual sum, in consideration of which he must undergo the necessary training, and he must hold himself ready to march with his division in the event of war. It may be briefly summarised as follows: Germany possesses six Central Committees at Berlin, Munich, Dresden, Stuttgart, Darmstadt, and Carlsruhe, with a superior Committee at Berlin. Under these are some hundreds of less important Committees. In peace, hospitals for invalid soldiers are maintained, nurses and ambulance-helpers are trained, exhibitions of hospital and sanitary material are held, and, as I have shown, prizes are bestowed for the best models, and also for the best essays on given subjects connected with hospital work. A military inspector and commissioner for the volunteer societies assists at Conferences held at the Ministry of War; and in fact the most complete solidarity is maintained between the various Societies, the Committees, and the War Department. On the outbreak of war, as was witnessed in 1870, a message flashed along the telegraph-

wires from Berlin is sufficient to militarize the whole system in the course of a few hours, and the German Red Cross army is found to be almost as completely organized as the combatant portion of the Army of the Fatherland.

As has been already stated, it was not until after the campaign in Bohemia in 1866, that Austria signed the Convention of Geneva. A Red Cross, or Patriotic Society, was then formed, which, as far as I can gather, has since been chiefly employed in supporting invalids, the victims of that war. The annual Reports of the society indicate that all its stores have reference to treatment in fixed hospitals; they are in fact hospital equipment stores, with the exception of three carriages, each for one wounded man, which are probably intended for bringing patients to fixed hospitals, and not for use in the field.

During the Franco-German war, Austria was officially represented on the German side by Professor Billroth, and on that of France by Professor Mundy. Each was accompanied by one or two surgeons and hospital assistants. This is an interesting fact, because it was the first time that the government of a neutral state sent surgeons to aid the medical establishments of the belligerent armies, in accordance with the desire expressed at the Berlin Conference in 1868.

But the Austrian Red Cross Society had no organisation for war, and was only able to contribute a few stores.

It must not be thought because the Austrian Patriotic Society is less actively employed than those which have just been mentioned, that the relief of sick and wounded soldiers in war receives less consideration in Austria than in France or Germany. This is by no means the case. The Teutonic order of which the Archduke William is Grand Master, has, with the sanction and approval of the Minister of War, now taken the lead in this direction in the most liberal and intelligent manner.

This order already possesses forty sanitary columns ready to supplement the forty infantry divisions of the regular army. The material which comprises ambulance carriages and fourgons with their contents, is distributed over seventeen garrison towns, in several of which the order has constructed special waggon-sheds at its own expense. It has spent £30,000 in forming sanitary trains for the first line, and a reserve fund of £15,000 will be required to place them on a war footing. By request of the Ministry of War, the baggage-waggons have been arranged, in case of need, to carry severely wounded men. In this and in many other ways it is needless to particularise, the expenses incurred by the order have been increased and have far exceeded the original estimates. The possibility of mountain warfare has not been forgotten, and experiments are still going on with the object of arriving at the best forms for bearer-chairs and bearer-baskets.

Regulations for the guidance of the order in its relations with the army are now in course of arrangement at the Ministry of War.

It is the intention of the order to establish a divisible fixed hospital for 600 wounded men; but the number is to be limited to 200 until the funds are sufficient to allow the plan to be fully carried out.

I may also add that this distinguished order, on the roll of which are most of the noblest names in Austria, maintains three hospitals for the civil population. At the beginning of last year, there were in these 36 patients; during the ensuing twelve months, 332 were admitted, of whom 303 went out cured, 24 died, and 41 remained at the end of the year.

Another noble order, that of the Austrian Knights of Malta, has also entered the same field of benevolent activity; and it has undertaken to provide twelve sanitary trains for use on railroads. The value of such trains can scarcely be appreciated in this country; but it is otherwise on the continent, where in all recent wars, railroads have played a very important part, both in military operations and for hospital purposes. The best model that has yet been used was that employed by the Germans during the Franco-German war; but this has been surpassed by the train which was built in Paris from the designs and under the superintendence of Baron Mundy for the French Société de Secours. This was first exhibited in the *Sanitäts Pavillon* of the Vienna Exhibition in 1873. It contains wards for the patients, separate rooms for the medical officers and nurses, a kitchen, store rooms and everything necessary for the purpose for which it is intended. In a word, it is best described as *un hôpital roulant*. It is on this plan I believe that the sanitary trains are being constructed for the Malteser Ritter, who will bear the expense and responsibility of this important supplement to the hospital establishment of the Austrian army in the field.

I have more than once casually mentioned the name of Mundy, but I must be allowed to say something more of this well-known and eminent Professor. In 1859, he was acting as Aide-de-camp to General Giulai at the head-quarters of the Austrian Army in Italy. He then left the combatant ranks in order to devote himself entirely to that profession of which he is now so distinguished a member; and in the war of 1866, we find the gallant cavalry officer transformed into Surgeon-Major of the Army in Bohemia. At the Conferences held at Geneva, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, he appeared as the enthusiastic advocate of reforms in the treatment of the wounded. During the siege of Paris, he identified himself with the French Société de Secours aux Blessés, and he established and personally directed a large hospital at the Palace of the Corps Législatif, where he was ably assisted by Dr. Von Mosetig. During the Commune, he designed and constructed a Pavilion hospital, of novel form, for use in summer. This is still standing in the park of St. Cloud, it having been accepted by Marshal MacMahon on behalf of the Army. In 1870-1, ambulance carriages of the Mundy pattern were to be seen wherever there was a column of the Société de Secours; and, more recently, I have met in Navarre with some of these carriages and mountain stretchers, also the invention of Professor Mundy.

All that the two knightly orders I have mentioned are doing in Austria for the sake of the soldier may be traced to the inspiration of the same gentleman; but, as I have shown, in this respect he knows no nationality. Were I asked to name one man who, more than

any other, is the incarnation of the Red Cross idea, I should unhesitatingly say Professor Baron Mundy. In forwarding the cause he has at heart, he has spared neither his purse nor his person: and to his courageous perseverance, disinterested advocacy, practical ability, and restless energy must be attributed a very large share of the success that has attended all recent efforts for the alleviation of the sick and wounded in war.

Perhaps I ought to have abstained from any special allusion to the work performed by three or four of the National Aid Societies of Europe, unless it were possible to refer to others equally deserving of notice. But the reason for the selection I have made is obvious. It would take far too much time to describe in detail the system pursued, by all similar societies, and I have therefore chosen those which have made themselves the most prominent, or which offer the best examples of the preparation that can be made in peace for time of war.

I might call attention to the activity of the Russian Society, and describe what it did in France and Germany in 1870-1; and later for its own troops in Khiva. More recently it has sent a well-equipped ambulance column to the Herzegovina. Like some other societies already mentioned, it has not limited its work to the alleviation of sufferings caused by war; it organized considerable relief for the victims of the famine in Samara, and also for the inhabitants of Morehansk, which town was destroyed by fire in May, 1875.

When the war broke out in 1870, it is doubtful if any Society, except those of Germany, was so well prepared as the Dutch. This was, in a great measure, owing to the interest which had been excited by the admirable Exhibition of Hospital and Sanitary Material, and the Conference, held at the Hague in 1869.

The war in Atchin has offered other opportunities to extend the experience of this admirable Society, and to utilize some of the excellent *matériel* which it possesses.

Belgium, as in everything which exhibits civilization in its best and noblest form, also claims a high place for her Red Cross Society. And it will not be out of place, I think, if I call attention to the International Exhibition of all objects connected with the saving of life, and the Congress of Hygiène, which are shortly to be held at Brussels. The initiative in this case is entirely attributable to Lieutenant-General Renard, one of the first and most eloquent advocates of the Red Cross. He has travelled over Europe, endeavouring to obtain official recognition and the support of all the Governments in Europe for his useful and philanthropic scheme; and I earnestly trust that a great success may attend efforts which appeal so irresistibly to all members of Red Cross Societies, whatever may be their nationality.

Spain has been afflicted during the last few years by a miserable civil war, which fortunately has now ceased. The Red Cross Society, under the guidance of the Central Committee of Madrid, has performed good work; and La Caridad, a Carlist society with the same object, but under a different flag, has also laboured well in the same field. Whilst deprecating anything like jealous rivalry in such a cause, it is satisfactory to know that these two societies carried out

their one object, and acted with regard to each other in a manner worthy of the old chivalry of Spain.

It is a very common thing for the National Red Cross Societies to be included under one title—the International Society—and misconception on this point has led to many serious mistakes. Each Society is a national one, though the spirit which animates them all may be called international; and this reminds me that the solidarity which now exists amongst all the societies of Europe is chiefly due to two gentlemen, who were the most zealous pioneers of the Convention of Geneva. M. Gustave Moynier and Dr. Appia, during thirteen years, have laboured incessantly on behalf of that Treaty, which was first proposed in the *Société Genevoise d'Utilité Publique*. They assisted in framing it; and one or both of them has been present at every conference and exhibition of hospital material which has been held under the Red Cross. They have been the most active members of the International Committee which has its head-quarters at Geneva, and of which, since the death of General Dufour, M. Moynier has been the president. When the war broke out in 1870, they formed an agency at Bâle. This not only offered a means of communication between the societies of the belligerent states, but it also became a channel through which gifts from neutral States of a value of more than three millions of francs were distributed amongst the sick and wounded.

Whatever may be the fate of the original Agreement, the names of Moynier and Appia will always be associated with it; and we need be under no apprehension, but that the philanthropic work commenced at Geneva will continue to flourish under some name and flag so long as the world shall suffer from the curse of war.

I have thus described, in a general and by no means exhaustive manner, the work in which some of the Red Cross Societies of Europe are occupied in time of peace. Some portion of this work, excellent as it undoubtedly is, is of a nature which ought not to be comprised in the sphere of these institutions. For instance, it should be no part of their work to give pensions to invalid soldiers, or to the widows and orphans of men who have died in the service of their country. Such work is the legitimate province of the Government acting for the country at large. If done by a non-official establishment, such an establishment might be made collateral to that of a Red Cross Society; and I apprehend there is no reason why, in this country, a separate Society, like that which administers the Patriotic Fund, should not be formed to supplement pensions awarded by Government, and to watch over the interests of aged and crippled soldiers and sailors and their widows and children. I venture parenthetically to recommend an extension of this field of usefulness as one that would materially help to add to the popularity of military service in this country.

In time of peace, it is not only within the sphere, but it is the positive duty of a Red Cross Society, to use every opportunity to educate a staff for the work which it professes to be able to perform. This can be done through the instrumentality of institutions entirely supported by Red Cross Societies, or by means of independent establish-

ments partially subsidised by them. The best examples of this kind of instruction are to be found in Germany.

A few years ago we were told that the legitimate susceptibilities of the Army medical profession would be excited if an attempt were made to introduce a civilian element into the Army hospitals in time of war. Experience has proved the fallacy of this assertion, and there is not a single Army in Europe in which the services of well-trained volunteer hospital assistants would not be received with satisfaction, during a campaign. Members of Red Cross Societies have a well-defined mission to fulfil, and those who understand and act up to this would be the very last to usurp functions which do not belong to them, or in any way endanger the feeling of cordiality with which the military medical profession and the Army hospital corps will be ready to regard them. Whether in peace or war, no man or woman is fitted for hospital work without some previous and special training, and I need scarcely add that strict discipline is absolutely indispensable.

I have endeavoured to direct attention to the increasing activity of the Societies on the continent, all of which are more or less patronised and encouraged by their respective Governments. It would be easy for us to follow their example: but it is this very facility, and the fact that in England all philanthropic movements are due to private initiative, which makes us so indifferent with regard to the future. What the British National Aid Society did in 1870-1 without previous preparation is regarded as satisfactory proof of what it would do if called upon again, for our own or any other Army, but such a precedent cannot safely be relied on.

I venture to say that there is not one of those who responded to the call of Colonel Loyd-Lindsay in 1870, who would not be ready to do so again, if required, bringing with him the experience gained in that memorable year. But this is not enough. The muster-roll of the Red Cross already shows many blanks. Some have passed away, and others are hastening on; new blood is wanted. As we recruit our combatant army, so must we recruit our non-combatant forces. And not only this, it is absolutely indispensable that whilst some direct attention to the perfection of weapons of destruction, others should be occupied in doing all they can to prepare for and mitigate the wounds which such arms are destined to inflict.

As was said by Dr. Landa, the Spanish delegate at the first Conference held at Geneva, in 1863:—"We are apt to accuse war of not allowing the arts of peace to flourish, but peace also, when it is of long duration, makes the art of war to fall into forgetfulness; and it is strange that this same forgetfulness is much greater for all that concerns the arts intended to preserve the Army than for those destined to destroy the enemy. At the decisive moment we ask for a miracle, and as this is not forthcoming, we exclaim against deception, instead of crying out against improvidence."

Nothing I have said is intended to depreciate in the smallest degree the value of the Army Medical Establishment, and I should not be standing here now, if I thought that one word of mine could seem to disparage the eminent services of this distinguished branch of the military profession.

What better authority can I adduce than that of a gentleman whom I have already quoted? In 1866 Professor Longmore, when advocating the formation of a National Committee in England, said:—"Committees no doubt will be formed, and subscriptions poured in, as has happened hitherto, as soon as there is need of them; but, as heretofore, there will be absence of system and independence of action, and there will not be the advantage, at any rate at first, of Government support; while, in other countries, on war breaking out the necessary preparations will have been long made and fully considered, everything will be systematized on preconceived plans, so as to harmonize with the arrangements of the Government and the action of the combatant and Army medical authorities."

In 1871 Colonel Loyd-Lindsay concluded an interesting account of what the British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War had done during the Franco-German War with these words:—"Can we wisely or justly decline to do what other nations have done, namely, to appoint National Committees, recognised by Government, whose functions it would be to organize the distribution of the national donations on a sound and proper footing, and thus be prepared to supplement what all admit must greatly need expansion, viz., the medical department of the Army in time of war?"

And in the interval which elapsed between the lecture of Mr. Longmore in 1866 and that from which I have just quoted, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Brackenbury made an appeal to the British public in the columns of a daily newspaper. He said:—"In Heaven's name, let us be up and doing! We have signed the Convention of Geneva. We are bound in honour to be working in time of peace, not for ourselves alone, but for all the other nations whose wounded may, by even the remotest possibility, ever fall into our hands. We invite discussion and action on a subject affecting both our soldiers' lives and our national honour."

And you, Ladies, who are to be found in every place where there is sickness to relieve, wounds to bind up, or grief to assuage, permit me to conclude in the words used by the Empress Augusta, when taking leave of the General Assembly of the Patriotic Association of Ladies, which is closely allied to the Red Cross Societies of Germany.

Her Majesty said:—"Let us continue to act and to work together in the great task which rests upon us. Let us show during peace the same perseverance as in time of war. Let us have the conscientious conviction that we are devoting our strength to the service of our country, and we shall find in this sentiment our best reward."

The CHAIRMAN: No subject can be more interesting to the Army and to the nation generally than the subject which has been brought before us by Mr. Furley; and it is well known how successful in diminishing the terrible sufferings of war the exertions of this Society have been. I hope that if any gentlemen have remarks or suggestions to make, they will offer them freely to this assembly.

Professor LONGMORE, C.B.: I find myself unexpectedly called upon to make some remarks on the excellent paper which has just been read by Mr. Furley. Unfortunately I did not hear the first part of it, but I know its general tenor. I am quite certain we must all feel very greatly indebted to him if only for calling attention to the necessity of considering our own position in respect to the

¹ See Journal, vol. xv, p. 331, *et seq.*

available means for supplementing the official aid to wounded in time of war. He has shown us what is being done in other countries and has thus indirectly called attention to what is not being done in our own country. There can be no doubt that should war unhappily arise, and there be a necessity for carrying into practical operation, the scheme which has been lately devised for the mobilization of our forces, there can be no doubt that the Army Medical Department will require extraneous help, and that the War Department may well expect to derive some assistance from the "National Aid Society for help to Wounded Soldiers in time of War." By the mobilization scheme, the organization of each corps d'armée requires no less than 267 surgeons with nearly 3,000 men of the Army Hospital Corps. There are eight such corps d'armée contemplated for the defence of the country, and besides these forces there is surgical assistance for the garrisons, for general hospitals, and other establishments to be provided for, as the mobilization scheme contemplates additions to the fighting strength of the regular and Militia forces of the country from the Volunteer combatant forces, so I think the Army Medical Department will have to look for additions to its surgical and nursing staff from civil volunteers. There will certainly be a difficulty in finding surgeons and hospital attendants in sufficient numbers in the usual official way. As far as I am aware, although I have the honour of belonging to the National Aid Society, no scheme has as yet been considered for meeting the wants that will then arise, and I fear the National Aid Society will be looked upon as having somewhat neglected its duty, if it do not in time of peace make some preparation for the demands which are sure to be made upon it in time of war. I believe there are some difficulties from the constitution of the Society in respect to outlay of money; but if Mr. Furley, who has so fully considered the subject, and who is personally so well acquainted with all that has been done in continental countries, and especially with the arrangements between the National Aid Societies in those countries and their respective war departments, would frame a scheme in detail for carrying out a system of training and preparation, in harmony with the peculiar institutions of our country, and would submit the scheme to the Committee of the National Aid Society, I feel confident his scheme would be fully considered, and that, if practicable, the Committee of the Society would do all they possibly could to carry it into effect. I feel as a member of the Army Medical Department that the department itself is indebted to Mr. Furley for calling attention to the important questions which are connected with the subject of volunteer assistance to the official surgical staff of the Army on occasion of war.

Lieut.-Col. HENRY BRACKENBURY, R.A. : I have listened with very great interest to the exceedingly sensible and practical remarks that Mr. Furley has made to us to-day. There are two points of view from which this Red Cross work has to be looked at. There is the point of view of the soldier and the point of view of the philanthropist. I being a combatant soldier by profession, was present as a philanthropist for five months during the Franco-German war, and I am bound to say that in my opinion it is not possible that again in any war the same latitude can be allowed to members of national philanthropic societies as was allowed during that war. I think that the occasions on which that latitude was abused, were few and far between, but I am sorry to say I do know of occasions on which it was abused, and if I were in command of troops, or chief of a staff to a General in command, I would absolutely forbid anything like that latitude which was allowed in the Franco-German war. The want of any recognised understanding as to the position of the agents of Red Cross Societies other than those of the belligerents themselves, led to strange misconceptions. People wearing a Red Cross upon their arm considered themselves almost insulted if they were not allowed to go anywhere and everywhere, and to pass without restraint from one line to another, and their pretensions were often admitted. Application was made by the English National Society for permission to send an agent with medical comforts into Metz during the siege, though we all know that suffering is one of the chief means by which a blockading force is endeavouring to break down the besieged troops. Naturally the permission was refused. In another war these irregularities will not be tolerated; and, therefore, if these philanthropic efforts are to be continued (and I believe it is impossible to overrate the amount of good done by them) it is absolutely necessary that some definite and distinct understanding should be come to by our Government as to

what position the Red Cross Society of our own country as well as those of foreign countries are to be placed in in the event of war. I believe at this moment we are absolutely without any arrangement between the Government of this country and the representatives of the National Aid Society, which has still a very large sum of money in hand: and further the Society itself is without any arrangement as to what is to be done by it in case of war and our own troops being engaged. Nor do I see how it is possible for the National Society to ask the Government to recognise them as long as they have no organization of their own: and we have not got any organization whatever with which to take the field. I believe I have the honour to be on the Council of the National Aid Society; and I own, to my great regret, that we have not stirred one single step since the war of 1870, in the direction of organizing; and until we have done that ourselves, how are we to go to Government and say: "We want you to make arrangements as to our position and sphere of work?" The first thing should be for our Society to go to work and to devise a practicable scheme of action. We have on our Committee such men as Dr. Longmore and Dr. Manley; we have combatant officers who have seen war; we have civil surgeons of the greatest possible eminence; and we have the practical experience of Mr. Furley. Surely amongst us all, we ought to be able to arrange a scheme with which we can go to the Secretary of State for War and say, "Will you go hand in hand with us and help us to carry this out?" If we do that, then I believe we should find at all events that some of the obstacles sure to be put in our way, might be done away with. More than two years before the Franco-German war, my attention was directed to this subject, and I wrote those words which Mr. Furley has quoted to-day, and which are as applicable now as then, "In Heaven's name let us be up and doing."

Dr. MANLEY, U.C.: Having been engaged in connection with this Society, I must say the thing that struck me most was the want of detail, the want of organization, and the want of discipline which existed under the Red Cross. That may be excused by the fact that at that time it was a new organization altogether; but still there did not seem to me to be a sufficient connection between the light-field ambulance in the field and the dépôt. For example, after one of the battles, I remember a German surgeon coming into the house where we were and stating that there were 2,000 wounded lying in the villages around, and they had not so much as a piece of bread or a bandage for them. Now seeing what an organization the Germans have, that will tell you what war is, and how the departments must be supplemented, because we find that notwithstanding the most perfect organization, on a pinch of that kind it is impossible that they can do everything. It is therefore most essential that it should be supplemented by a well organized volunteer aid, because as far as my experience goes, it was immediately after an engagement and before the regular field hospitals came up, that the volunteers were of most use. When the field hospitals came up, the Germans immediately took the wounded out of our hands; and we were of no further use except for transporting them. Therefore it is necessary that societies, such as the English Society, should have on its roll an equipment of field ambulance stores, medical and surgical, and provisions for the support of the wounded, and that they should have volunteer aids enrolled and properly trained, because volunteers without organization, though they are zealous and active, have great waste of power and a great waste of material. I should like to ask one or two questions which more particularly affect this country. We have seen how easily ships can be sunk, and no doubt in the first naval engagement there must be several ironclads sunk. Is there any means of saving the wounded from being drowned and of taking them rapidly to England, even before the action is over? have they any plan of a hospital-ship for conveying the wounded? Is there any volunteer staff? because that is a point where a volunteer aid society can come in very well indeed. In the Ashantee war the "Victor Emmanuel" was kept as a hospital ship, but there is nothing of that kind ready for a naval engagement now. I think in that direction there is the promise of a very good work for a Volunteer Aid Society. I mention these facts because I am not aware that anything has been done at all in the society latterly. There is a great field for volunteer aid if properly organized, but there must be discipline and there must be organization and proper attention to detail.

General Sir RICHARD WILBRAHAM, K.C.B.: I wish to make one or two remarks on what has just been said. I think there is great danger of our trespassing upon another department which does not belong to a volunteer society, when it is proposed that the National Aid Society should provide ships to carry home the wounded. It appears to me that if there is one duty more evidently that of the State than another it is that of sending home the wounded. The National Aid Society ought in my opinion to begin with much smaller things than that. There are two questions I should wish to ask the lecturer. We have heard a great deal about what foreign societies of this kind are doing, but we have heard nothing about what our own National Aid Society is doing. I should like to know whether it has ambulances in store or any material with which to take the field, in case its services should be required, and in the second place, as Colonel Brackenbury says, we ought to be up and doing. I want to know whether the National Aid Society has taken any steps to secure the services of experienced surgeons or even of trained orderlies, or whether they would be found as unprepared as they were at the outbreak of the Franco-German War? The best ambulance we had in that war—in which I believe that a number of the members of this Society worked—was, if am not mistaken, one furnished by our Government from Woolwich. I do not know whether there was any ambulance furnished by the National Aid Society. I think we are treading upon very dangerous ground if we are supposing that a private society can, or ought to do the work of Government. Of course our position is very much more difficult than that of a similar society in any foreign country. The natural duty of such a society would be to assist and supplement the military organization of their own country. One of the speakers has expressed his opinion that the work of this society would have to encounter the jealousy of the War Office. I do not think that there would be any fear of this, if their services were required in our own country. But I think that there would be great fear of its incurring the jealousy of the military authorities of any foreign country to which it was giving its services, unless the utmost prudence were exercised.

Admiral Sir HENRY CODRINGTON, K.C.B.: I must say I think there is hardly so much field for the exertions of the society in the Navy as there would be in the Army. In the first place, I do not think that our number of wounded would be so great, nor would they be so dispersed as in warfare on shore. It is suggested that aid should be given in the case of ramming, and that the wounded should be disposed of; I am sorry to say in that view it is not only the wounded that would be disposed of, the ship herself and all on board of her would be disposed of also. Next, with respect to the surgical care of those men who happen to be unluckily wounded, the medical staff, I think, would be sufficient and it would be supplemented very largely by the civilians on board the ship. They are the assistants of the medical profession in the cockpit, and wherever else the wounded may be. I do not think there is such urgent necessity for increased surgical assistance in the Navy, but if there were, I do think it would be the duty certainly of the Government to provide it, and I do not think really and truly there is any means for that assistance being given in each particular case by any civilian society. Next, as to transporting the wounded home. Certainly that is a thing we in the Navy ought to do; but there is a very great difference between picking up wounded men from a field and hoisting men out from one ship in the middle of the Atlantic and transporting them into another, even supposing there were neutral ships to receive the wounded. Again, if a ship has been in action, I think she will very shortly go into harbour if she swims, and more particularly as warfare now will always be carried on by means of steam propulsion, for no war-ship could be kept out of her harbour after action more than a few days, certainly not weeks, and it might be very dangerous to move a recently wounded man from a ship immediately into another ship. On the whole, therefore, I do not see any field for a society of this excellent nature to be brought to bear upon the Navy as it is now constituted, and as it will be in any future warfare in which it may be engaged.

Sir EDMUND LECHMERE, Bart.: I must express my acknowledgments to the Council of this Institution for their kindness in giving me an opportunity of hearing Mr. Furley's very valuable paper, and I may be permitted as a civilian to express my hearty concurrence in what has fallen from the previous speakers. It has always been a

great cause of surprise, and some disappointment to me, that more active steps have not been taken by the Red Cross Society, following in the steps of other branches of the same organization abroad, to carry on in times of peace some corresponding services to those required in war. I cannot conceive any great difficulty which would arise in taking such steps, and I can only suppose that the state of quiescence in which the Society has remained in England has arisen from the belief that everything was right and proper, and that in time of war the skeleton would be filled up, and the Society might resume the field with the same activity it before manifested. But I cannot help thinking, after what we have heard, that this is a mistake. I think also there has been great disappointment in the provinces on this question. I can only say that in our own county of Worcester very active steps were taken to raise a very large sum of money and a considerable amount of *matériel* during the Franco-Prussian war, and it was looked upon that our Worcestershire branch of the Red Cross Society would be a permanent institution. The subscriptions were kept up, and all our books are ready, and the storekeeper is ready at any moment to set to work in the Town Hall of Worcester, and to take active steps to carry on the work of the Society. I believe, if the effort were made, a great amount of good might be done, not only in reviving the spirit, which ought not to subside in times of peace—the spirit of philanthropy, which was so conspicuous at that period, and which proved so valuable in time of war—but I believe also the National Society might gain valuable experience by subsidizing some institutions for nursing the sick poor and for training nurses for the sick—those societies that take upon themselves the conveyance of the sick to hospitals. I am happy to say the English Branch of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem has taken upon itself the provision of means for the conveyance of persons to hospitals who have been wounded in such accidents, and I really believe that by giving encouragement to this or similar hospital organizations, a great deal might be done to keep up an organized staff of philanthropists, who might by proper discipline (and discipline is everything) become very valuable in any future war. I therefore hope that what has been said to-day may call the attention of the Council of the English Red Cross Society to the real advantage—I might almost say the duty—of utilizing to some extent the great resources which the country has placed in their hands; and by calling to their aid the admirable body of men who have been active members of that society, they might readily frame a good and practical scheme for some useful and national work.

Sir EDWARD PERROTT, Bart.: With regard to the observations that have fallen on the subject of abuses under the Red Cross cognizance, it has appeared to me very often that there is not sufficient executive power given to medical officers in general. We know that at the moment the medical officer goes to a military parade his mouth is closed.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is perhaps a little beyond the question before us to-day. I hope you will not go into the general question of medical authorities with regard to the War Office or the Commander-in-Chief.

Sir EDWARD PERROTT: Not in that point of view, but it is with a desire of seeing whether these abuses which have been referred to would not have been controlled if the medical officer in charge of parties under the Red Cross cognizance was enabled himself to be accountable for every man that would be present and claim to be under that badge.

Deputy-Commissary J. S. YOUNG: I am sure every one must be indebted to Mr. Furlay for calling attention to the humanitarian movement which had its origin in 1870 and 1871, and which, I think, has lain too long asleep. The only fear I have from what has come out of the discussion to-day, especially from those who hold a position in the Army at present—Colonel Brackenbury and Surgeon-Major Manley—is that the object of the lecturer, which is the benefit of the sick and wounded in time of war, will be frustrated if the responsibility of the Government itself is not fully brought forward. It seems to me that if we are to leave so much to the National Society for Aid to Sick and Wounded, Governments will be very much tempted to leave aside the proper provision that they ought to make for aid to their own sick and wounded in time of war. A distinguished Officer, who was a governor of one of our largest medical establishments, has spoken, and it is within his recollection, I dare say, that a Royal Commission sat in consequence of the disastrous

state of affairs in connection with the sick and wounded of the army in the East in 1855 and 1856. The outcome of that Royal Commission was that the executive of the Army was so strengthened that in all our recent expeditions, at any rate, there was no necessity for aid to the sick and wounded from outside the Army itself. I am very much afraid, if too much prominence is given to voluntary effort that a re-action might take place. A re-action has already taken place, I am afraid, as regards the executive branch of the Army charged with the welfare of the sick and wounded in war. At the same time I cannot agree with Colonel Brackenbury that it is necessary to regulate these things, as regards the National Aid Society, so closely as to bring it into official relation with the executive of the Army. The old proverb that "Necessity knows no law" holds equally good with reference to any great war; that where there is a necessity then there will be a gladness to accept the efforts of voluntary societies, and so long as the action of the National Aid Society is confined to that, I think there will be more than an ample sphere for their efforts, as there was in 1870 and 1871. Surgeon Manley referred to efforts in connection with ships at sea. I cannot fancy that being the sphere of a National Society at all, for the simple reason that you cannot guarantee for a National Society that there will be the funds necessary. It takes an immense amount of money to have a ship and keep it at sea for any indefinite period. It is the peculiarity of the circumstances connected with aid to the sick and wounded that everything is unforeseen; for instance, we know that the supply of an army is a question to the commissariat of how many effectives they have to supply. This is a matter which can be dealt with to a degree of accuracy, but when you come to sick and wounded, they never know how many they have to supply and it is in the time of these unforeseen emergencies that the aid to sick and wounded will come in most efficiently. Having had some experience, and having served in the service of the National Society, I feel that we have not heard the other, the official, side of the question. His Royal Highness, at a recent meeting in this theatre, stated that people by their absence sometimes seemed to take for granted that everything was all right. I hope that those present here will attend at the lecture to be given on the 29th instant by Surgeon Sandford Moore, a distinguished Officer of the Medical Department, and who also served during the Franco-German war, and then they will be able to hear the official side of the question. I am perfectly sure that with the special attention that has been given to the subject by the lecturer, and that which will be given to it by Surgeon Moore, some good ought to result.

Mr. SHEE: During the German war my brother-in-law, Baron von Lauer, was engaged in building a harbour for the German Government. Finding his civil career temporarily suspended, he set about organizing voluntarily, in conjunction with those under him, a service corresponding somewhat to that which came to the aid of the military, and accordingly there was inaugurated a new branch which, considering the position of Germany as a naval power, certainly might put us to shame. It went by the name of the "See-wehr," or Naval Militia, and did good service in protecting the harbour and also in coming to relieve the sick and wounded. I mention this in corroboration of the remark made by Surgeon-Major Manley, and my belief is that if Germany, taking so humble a rank as a naval power, thought it worth while, under a stress of circumstances unparalleled, to do something in the direction mentioned, then surely it might be for our own advantage and ultimate good were we to follow the example thus given us.

Dr. DANFORD THOMAS: I was six months, during the Franco-German war, engaged by the Society, and the thought that has struck me, after what I have already heard to-day, is that our Volunteers in this country are without any medical organization whatever for time of war. They have their surgeons and their assistant-surgeons, but there is no organization at all for taking charge of the sick or wounded, nor are there any ambulances for that purpose. This large body of men if brought into action would be entirely destitute of medical provision and service in time of war, therefore if a Red Cross Society did nothing else but support our own soldiers in time of war, that would be in itself one great reason why a thoroughly organized system should be adopted. The only difficulty in this plan would be if our assistance as an International Society was required for other countries. If we confined our Red Cross services to our own country, there would be little or no difficulty in

organizing ambulances to attach themselves to the various regiments of the volunteer service, where they might be properly trained and really rendered efficient for any emergency.

The CHAIRMAN: There is one point I should wish to refer to, which is a military one. I certainly must endorse the feeling about there being a limit and a distinct limit to the presence of the Red Cross, and the facilities of getting about and using the Red Cross in a way that General Officers, perhaps, must object to. It is a very difficult duty to be obliged to say that what is nominally for the assistance of the sick and wounded is something that is positively noxious to your own Army, perhaps, by information or facility being given to the enemy, and must be prevented. Therefore, I cannot but feel that that is a very strong point that has been mentioned by Colonel Brackenbury, and one on which it would behove the Society itself to get the most stringent rules laid down in order that they may be protected in their real legitimate duty, so as to draw a line and prevent any illegitimate entries into fortresses or communication being made which would put a stop to the real well-doing and well-being of the Society itself. It is a very important point for us to consider, and they must feel that there are occasions in which it is possible that the Red Cross may be abused. Of course, every enemy will take advantage of getting information and using even the most legitimate means in an illegitimate manner—the old story of “all fair in war,” you go very near the wind in many things of that sort—therefore I think the Society should lay down its own rules strictly so as to support the real authority of a General Officer, so that he may be able to give them the utmost protection with safety to his own Army. I will leave it to Mr. Furley to enter into the other questions with regard to the Society itself.

Mr. FURLEY: I do not think that there is much more I can say on the subject. Dr. Manley's proposition as to a scheme of relief in naval warfare has already been brought forward at more than one conference, and the French Society, as you, perhaps, have noticed, calls itself *Société de secours aux blessés des Armées de Terre et de Mer*. I think that societies rather shirk this question because they see the difficulty Sir Henry Codrington has alluded to. In 1868 I was asked at Berlin if I could do anything in England towards this object, because it was thought of all countries in the world England was the one which ought to initiate this branch of relief; but I very much doubt if there is any one in England who sees a way to any practical scheme of relief for the wounded at sea. In fact, I believe the majority of naval men are quite satisfied with present arrangements. At the same time, I hope the question may be ventilated at the next Congress. Sir Edmund Lechmere has alluded to what might be done in time of peace. I feel very strongly upon that subject. I think our starting point should be the connection between the Society and the British Army. The work that the National Society ought to undertake should be of such a nature as to be useful to hospitals and nursing establishments in time of peace. If then we are required to aid our own Army Medical Establishment, or to render any assistance to foreign Armies in supplementing their medical establishments, we shall be ready, if called upon, to do so. I do not think there would be the slightest difficulty if there was a proper organization connected with our civil hospitals in time of peace, such as you find in Germany and elsewhere. Professor Longmore has suggested that I should draw up a scheme. I confess I prefer that it should be done and drawn up by a man like himself. I will gladly give any assistance I can, but I think there are men much better fitted than I am to take the lead in such a matter. I should not shirk from any labour it might entail, because I think it ought to be done.

General WILBRAHAM: I asked two definite questions; whether Mr. Furley considers they come within the scope of his lecture may be another question. First, has the National Aid Society a store of ambulances and material ready to take the field? and, in the second place, in the event of their being called upon to take the field, have they made any sort of arrangement by which they could secure medical aid and the assistance of trained hospital nurses?

Mr. FURLEY: Having been very much out of the country of late years, I am not aware that we possess any material at all. I believe we have two or three ambulance carriages presented by the French Society to us after the war, but Dr. Manley knows more about that than I do.

Mr. LONGMORE: I am sorry to say the Society has no *dépôt* of stores, and, secondly, that as far as I am aware it has not made any preparation for meeting the demands which may be made upon it in time of war. I would also, as I have been called upon to speak again, merely call attention to one fact which has scarcely been alluded to, but which has an important bearing on some of the observations which have been made. Colonel Brackenbury mentioned that a great number of irregularities took place under the Red Cross during the Franco-German war. One irregularity is sure to lead to other irregularities, and I must say that in the very first place the fact of our National Aid Society interfering at all in that war was in itself an irregularity. There is no treaty or legal enactment by which our National Aid Society could under any circumstances rightly assume to itself an international character, or by which any English person under any circumstances could claim a right by virtue of being a member of a Red Cross Society to be on or near a field of military operations in which foreign nations only were concerned. The Geneva Convention simply legalizes and recognizes in each country a National Aid Society, and that National Aid Society has no standing whatever until it has received the sanction and has come more or less under the authority of the Minister of War of that country. The Convention of Geneva most strictly excludes all reference to independent volunteers. There is no mention of a volunteer, separate from the military ambulances and hospitals of the belligerents, in the treaty from beginning to end; and, having taken part in framing the terms of the Convention, I know for a fact that so general was the feeling for excluding such persons, seeing the utter impossibility, without grave irregularities ensuing, of giving anybody who might choose to take it the right as a volunteer to be on the field among combatant Armies; that had volunteers, independent of nationality and military control, been introduced into the articles, the Convention would never have been acceded to. Indeed, with regard to the French representatives who were at the framing of that Convention, they mentioned that they had distinct orders if the word "volunteer" were introduced into the treaty that they were immediately to leave Geneva, and to take no further part in the proceedings. Those who will study the Convention of Geneva carefully will see from beginning to end there is not a single allusion to Red Cross volunteers in it. The National Aid Society, when properly placed under the authority of the Minister for War and duly recognised, becomes for the time as much a part of the medical department of the Army as the combatant volunteers are of the fighting ranks, and the properly accredited members of the society then become entitled to certain privileges, which privileges are laid down in the Convention of Geneva. The real problem which remains to be solved in this country, and which in my opinion ought to be solved without delay, is how on the one hand to preserve the general volunteer character of the National Aid Society, and on the other to consider how it can best be subordinated to the established military authorities, so that there may be no clashing with good order and necessary discipline in time of war; but, on the contrary, efficient co-operation towards the common end in view. It is the same problem that has had to be worked out with regard to volunteer combatants.

The CHAIRMAN: I am very glad Mr. Longmore has mentioned this, for I myself to a certain extent was ignorant of the various details. I understand Mr. Longmore to say that those under the Convention of Geneva must be backed by the Government in order to be recognized by the belligerent forces.

Mr. LONGMORE: Quite so.

The CHAIRMAN: I am very glad these few expressions have shown exactly the *status* of the Red Cross Society when war takes place. We have had a very interesting lecture from Mr. Furley, and the subject is most interesting both to the civil and more especially to the military population of England, who have to suffer during war in this terrible way on the field. The main point I cannot help thinking, is the relief of the wounded on the field; that non-combatants should be attached to each company to carry the wounded from the place where they fall to a place of temporary safety, and then to convey them to hospitals. That is the main point which every General Officer would wish to see carried out in the Army, and these are subjects that are debated and discussed with very great attention by military men. I am very glad that the subject has been brought forward here, and beg to offer Mr. Furley our best thanks for his very interesting lecture.