

Japanese Red Cross

A contingent of Japanese Red Cross ladies accompanied by superintendent nurses, and doctors, recently arrived in England to give their valuable assistance in nursing the wounded. The incident has naturally caused much interest to be taken in the work of our Eastern Ally in this direction, in which the Japanese are acknowledged to be at the top of the tree for skill and organisation. In war time, their Red Cross, instead of being outside the army altogether, becomes part and parcel of the medical department of the army and navy. The superintendent nurses rank with physicians and pharmacutists as military officers, chief nurses as non-commissioned officers, and ordinary nurses as privates. During the training of the nurses, which is undertaken by the society, they are subjected to military discipline. Three thousand nurses are always kept mobilised, being under oath to respond to the call for service in time of war or national calamity. Strict rules for conduct and etiquette are laid down, and as might be expected,

personal appearance is taken into consideration as a large factor in the work. The virtue of gentleness is insisted upon, and probationers are taught that as frozen ice melts before the soft zephyrs of spring, so anger is softened by gentleness, but it is also laid down that woman must strive to acquire courage and avoid weakness and vacillation. With regard to feminine vanity, a regulation published shows that "good looks" are as much valued by Japanese women as by ourselves. The official mind strives to ignore the possession of mere prettiness, and extols instead "neatness" and "tidiness." "Good looks," it runs, "are of no importance, but the mind should be cultivated like the blossoms and the manners polished. Tidiness in dress and coiffure is a cardinal virtue in women, and still more so in nurses wearing uniform. Nurses must not powder or paint, and must never forget to put their gloves on. Decent appearance makes one's mind decent."

Boulogne under the Red Cross

The French seaport and watering place has undergone an extraordinary transformation. It is now what may be termed a hospital town for the British wounded. All the principal hotels are turned into hospitals or lodge the officials of the British Red Cross Society. At the railway station the goods sheds have been converted into an enormous military hospital. The work has been so well done that dismal uninhabitable buildings have been changed into a series of spotlessly clean, bright wards well lighted, warm and ventilated. There is even a specially equipped ward for pneumonia cases, and two thoroughly up-to-date operating theatres. The Casino has also been converted into a hospital. The Cafe restaurant makes a fine ward, containing over 90 beds, and at the "bar" medicines are now dispensed. The finest ward of all is the great Baccarat Hall. The cashier's office is now a sisters' room, and the "American Bar" a Rontgen-ray room. Never have the British wounded,

or probably any wounded, been so well looked after. The hospitals are as well staffed as they are equipped.

Eminent consulting physicians attached to the army visit daily to advise on medical cases of difficulty, and a still greater number of eminent surgeons attend, and no major operation is performed without the approval of one of them. There are also specialists as well as operating surgeons who are celebrated for particular work. The transport is equally good. The Red Cross Society has some good motor ambulances on the roads in France. They are at every point of the lines of communication and at every base, and are ready at any hour of the day or night. There is also now an adequate number of ambulance trains on the lines of communication, and the latter types embody the newest refinements in hospital-train construction.—From The Journal of the American Medical Association, Feb. 27, 1915.