

eyes, he said: "I had my drink all the same." Eventually, by lying low for a time and wriggling along on his back, he came to the "First Aid," and was at last forwarded down to Modder River. The Highland lad rested but little that night, for he was continually on the move helping his more seriously wounded comrades. Another of the Black Watch showed me his hand, badly mauled by what the surgeons told him was an explosive bullet. It was terribly smashed, but the man was quite hopeful of being all right in a day or two. I did not like to tell him that it probably meant amputation. My companion the next morning, hearing about the Boer explosive bullets, came up to me, and, with a cunning look, whispered: "I have found one of those explosive bullets that smashed that poor fellow's hand." "Oh!" said I, "this is interesting; let me see." And he produced from his pocket an empty sparklet shell! There was much amusement with my colleagues over that explosive bullet till I showed the discoverer my arator, and explained the usefulness and luxury of the sparklet. Anyway, it shows the popularity of this excellent invention; for even the supposed ignorant and uncivilised Boer has advanced so far as the comfort of aerated water to quench his thirst in the trenches.

Whatever the British soldier has to say regarding the way he has been sacrificed in attempting to carry almost impregnable positions during the war, he can never complain of want of solicitation on the part of the authorities for his comfort when he is once *hors de combat*. The ambulance and hospital arrangements from first to last are the most perfect and well organised that I have yet seen in any campaign, and seem to me so complete in every detail for the comfort of the wounded or sick soldier that they can hardly be bettered. The present mode of warfare makes it exceedingly dangerous, often impossible, to assist the seriously hurt till some arrangement has been made with the enemy to bring off the wounded, or till they can be moved under cover of night. At Magersfontein and else-

where heroic deeds have been done in succouring the wounded by comrades and surgeons during the battle, but as this campaign progresses it will be seen whether this heroic folly can be allowed to go on. It seems excessively inhuman and un-English to leave wounded comrades on the field, yet the wounded in this war have seen the necessity of being left—and prefer being left—alone till after the fight. There have already been many instances where bearers approaching wounded have been earnestly requested not to come near by the man they were about to succour, owing to the danger of being shot again when being lifted from cover on to the stretcher. Out of innumerable instances the following have come under my notice of this—if I may again use the expression—heroic folly in succouring wounded. Colonel Keith Falconer was killed as he lifted his head from cover when he heard that Bevan, of the 5th, was hit. Beau Egar and Ray, both of the 5th, were hit in attempting to succour wounded. At Magersfontein, Milton, of the Mounted Infantry, though wounded, received a more severe injury, which caused his death, through the attentions of a comrade who would insist on succouring him in spite of his remonstrances. Captain Percy Probyn, attached to the Gordons, found that the second shot had passed through Milford's liver, and though he himself has been instrumental in assisting many wounded under fire, he acknowledges the futility of it. That veteran and now retired war correspondent, Archibald Forbes, LL.D., a few years ago predicted, in an excellent article on the war of the future, the hopeless risk of succouring the wounded until after the fighting was over. One can understand any risk being taken when the enemy is a savage and cruel one, and does not give quarter; but with a humane and generous foe like the Boer—who has treated, and will no doubt continue to treat our wounded within the immediate vicinity of his lines with consideration—this heroic folly of picking up the wounded should be discontinued.

I came across an excellent colonial