

AN APPRECIATION

(From an article by Major Harlow Brooks, M. R. C., and appearing in The Cure, the Camp Upton Base Hospital paper.)

To the civil physician accustomed throughout all his professional life to the service of women nurses, usually highly trained and well schooled, the question of the care of seriously sick patients with only men and those usually but poorly trained in the care of the sick, comes as something of a shock. There is no question whatever but that the civil physician, so dependent has he become on the service of the efficient trained nurse, would at once say that the adequate care of grave medical cases was nowadays practically impossible without the trained nurse.

There is however a very definite difference of opinion when this question is propounded by military surgeons, most of whom in my experience believe that the old "Hospital Corps Man" has nearly always made good in the past and that in at least certain forms of cases, he is more efficient than the trained female nurse, particularly in field work. The military surgeon of the old days was, however, not so accustomed to the care of large numbers of seriously ill patients as his brother of civil practice and his opinion may therefore be somewhat biased by his lack of actual experience.

It would seem then that that witness best qualified to speak as an expert is a physician experienced in and who has in addition served for a time in military life and hospitals.

As such a person it is my pleasure to say a few words of much appreciation for the "Corps Man." For 25 years I have been constantly in active hospital work, as interne, assistant, visiting and consulting physician in large general hospitals in which the trained nurse has been a fixture and a neces-

sity. I grant no man a more keen appreciation than mine of the female trained nurse, of her surprisingly high character, of her industry, devotedness to duty and ideals and of her "general efficiency." She has, however, no exclusive and superlative claim on these virtues.

During eighteen years of experience as a regimental and Division Medical Officer, of the National Guard, I have seen the Corps man under guard under many very trying conditions, in fixed encampments, on the march, in active manoeuvres and in actual military conditions in which co-operation with regular troops or on strike duty closely simulated at least real war conditions of medical service. During the first four months of my life at Camp Upton Base Hospital, a new and further experience with the enlisted man of the Medical Department as a ward worker has been afforded me. I have come to respect this man and his capabilities more and more as I have served with him.

As an "Angel of Mercy" he will not grace head lines or magazine covers but I have never known him to desert or neglect a comrade. What he lacks in training and those graces of intuition which typify most women, he compensates for in his ingenuity, his physical stamina and in his keen sense of duty. The Hospital Corps man as I have known him has been no real lady but he has shown himself to be a MAN, whenever a test of manhood has appeared.

In the very early days of our hospital here at Camp Upton, I have not seldom known men to be kept on duty consecutively for 24 hours at a stretch and during the period to be obliged to take their food and such rest as was possible in their ward and while still on duty. I do not recall complaint from any of these men. They were "Playing the game." Many emergencies have arisen in these wards, manned by the "Obsolete corps man," suicides, murders, medical crises demanding

promptness of action, judgment and stamina. The Corps man has not failed me yet. He has been not only willing to play at times, clerk, carpenter or plumber, but on due and lawful occasions he has shown himself to be an efficient thief. Upton biard has accumulated, shelves over 24 inches in length have appeared in the ward or closet by miraculous intervention, electric lights have budded forth where the signal officers were hopelessly bound in red tape. Moses when he smote the rock brought forth water only, the humble corps man has "obtained" digitals, alcohol, creolin compound and yet other needful articles accessible materials.

The Ward Man is not often beautiful to look upon, his role is not painted as a heroic one, but he dares and dies whenever others do and his name is frequent on the list of medal of honor men. I know of no monuments to his memory but Reed Lazeer and Agramonte knew that he would gladly risk not only his life but his happiness and health that science might advance and others live free from epidemic. He may not look real pretty on Red Cross Posters, but he is fine at bearing crosses.

All honor to the Ward Man! He does his work and frequently holds his tongue under circumstances that loosen mine to a serious degree; he has stepped aside to be displaced by the trained nurse, but when we need him, when emergency arises and quick, generous service and manly humanity are called, we know where to find him.

SEVEN NEW COOKS

The following privates and privates first class have been rated as cooks: Balowski, Leighton, Gannon, Western, Park, Appleton and Aginitti. All these men are connected with the patient's mess and have been working there for several months.

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