

from four to eight shillings per head of the human population. In India it would appear from our calculations to be only about two shillings and six pence per head. Taking the latter rate as an average for the whole world the total loss due to rats would amount to over £200 millions annually. It is obvious, therefore, that a small expenditure directed on improving the methods of rat-destruction might effect an immense saving to the human race."

NOTICES.

1. Please will members of the Associations and others who subscribe to the *Journal* kindly inform Miss Thacker at once if they do not receive the paper. Address to The Cama Hospital, Bombay.
2. Will members of the A. N. S. I. and the T. N. A. I. please understand that blank concession forms cannot be sent for railway travelling as it is against the rule.
3. Will any member of the A. N. S. I. or the T. N. A. I., who did not receive a copy of the Hand-book last December, kindly inform Miss Thacker.
4. Will applicants for membership to the A. N. S. I. or T. N. A. I. be good enough to remember to send copies of training certificates and testimonials of good moral character with the form to the respective secretaries. These are rules, and needless work and unnecessary delay is avoided by attention to them.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

IN CAMP WITH THE FLAX-PULLERS.

By kind permission of The Nursing Mirror.

ONE Saturday in July I started from London to take charge of a hospital tent in one of the many flax camps, so much talked about this year in England. The need of cultivating our own flax for the wings of our aeroplanes and other necessities has arisen through the action of the enemy submarines, and the consequent risk of depending upon the produce of other countries.

The little village to which I journeyed was in Lincolnshire, the country associated with Hereward the Wake, and situated eighteen miles from Peterborough. I arrived about three o'clock in the afternoon, and was surprised to find that the workers—450 men and boys—were not expected till the following afternoon, and that the camp was only to open then. The Commandant, Major X., the Quartermaster, and others, with the head cook and her five assistants, had already been on the field for eight or ten days getting everything in readiness. The field in which the camp was pitched was a cricket field, with a pavilion, which came in very usefully as a store-house and office. A room was found for me in the village, where the Major thought the feminine portion of the camp would be more comfortable than roughing it in camp.

The box containing requisites for the medical work had not arrived, nor was the hospital tent erected. Slight casualties from the kitchen needed dressings, and Nurse M., who joined me on Monday, was much amused by my treating everything—cuts, bruises, conjunctivitis—with Borofax, the only antiseptic dressing of any description I had with me. Till the hospital tent was up we had to attend to our patients in a corner of the staff mess tent. After two or three days I was sent for, just as I was getting into bed, to see two of the men, who were feverish and complaining of headache and sore throat. The men slept in bell tents, ten herded together, coffin-shaped mattresses converging towards the centre pole, their kit-bags behind their pillows. I diagnosed the cases "Spanish flu," and said they must be isolated. There was a large unused marquee at the other end of the field, near the men's mess tents, so I had their bedding carried across and settled them up for the night. We took full possession of this marquee, which we used as hospital and dispensary until we at last got our own towards the end of the week.

Every day brought us fresh "flu" cases, and we had to discharge several sooner than we otherwise would have done, the largest number of in-patients we could take at any time being eleven. When we got busy with these (some of whom ran temperatures of over 104° F.) and the many casualties it was decided that nurse or I should sleep in camp. A bell tent and stretcher were put at our disposal, and we took duty in turn. I was only once called up by the pickets to see a youth "who was wandering about aimlessly." I admitted him into hospital for the night. I fear it was only a case of an overdose of cider! During our fortnight we had thirty in-patients and one hundred and thirty-six casualties. These latter consisted mostly of ordinary stomacic troubles, cuts, sprains, burns, and epilepsy. One poor man had to be sent home. He was on fatigue duty in camp, and fell down in a faint. He seemed quite off his head on coming round—declared he had lost his memory, that he was dead, and that nothing mattered, and suchlike. The doctor, who visited the camp every morning, very kindly came round in the evening to see him, and gave a sleeping draught for the two nights he was with us before arrangements could be made to have him taken to London.

The "reville" sounded each morning about six o'clock, and the men's breakfasts were served at seven. The flax fields were four or five miles from the camp, and the men were conveyed to the different fields by motor lorries. They took their lunch of bully beef or tinned salmon, cheese and bread, and cocoa with them, and had a hot dinner in camp after their return at six o'clock. The evenings were their own, and they were free to go out into the village. The vicar was most kind and helpful, and had a C.E.T.S. canteen and recreation marquee, with a piano, in the camp for their use. Every night he had arranged for a concert or some entertainment, as he was anxious to keep the men thus happily occupied away from temptations of the many public-houses the small village contained. On Sunday he had an open air parade service before the usual morning service in church. This was well attended and, I think, appreciated. The matron and patients from the V.A.D. Hospital joined us at this service.

The old Abbey Church contained some interesting relics, among them Cromwell's dagger. The view from the tower was extensive, stretching right away to the Wash. Another interesting building in the village was the "Red Hall," a house about 500 years old with a very handsomely carved solid oak staircase, and a room, with a secret exit on to the roof, which was probably where the Gunpowder Plot was hatched. In another village a holy water stoup in the church had been removed in the time of the Reformation and used in the vicarage for the swine's trough. It was restored to the church some 350 years later by one of the tenants of the glebe, into whose possession it eventually came.

The flax-pulling was undertaken as a holiday task, and the workers represented every class and several nationalities. There were university students, schoolmasters, bank clerks, and postmen. Among them were Serbians, Indians, Cingalese. Most of them only remained a fortnight. Their expenses were defrayed by Government, and they received a small remuneration for their services. I for one had a most delightful holiday, and was sorry when at the end of my time I had to give over charge to my successor.

TWO SMALL MASSAGEES.

BY MISS M. I. BUTCHER.

SHE was somewhere about a year old; we will call her Betty. Betty was one day found not to be able to hold up her head for more than a second or two, the doctor was called in and told her mother to massage her neck, mother saying she knew nothing about massage asked if there was no one in the place who did, so she came to me. The child looked fairly well, perfectly intelligent, but a trifle puny and backward for her age. There was no history of any serious illness, but having just of late arrived from England on the boat had caught a cold, and all went to prove that she had what is commonly called a "stiff neck" and so kept her head on one side instinctively for comfort and thereafter a habit formed until the neck was too weak to properly support the head. Some alteration in diet was recommended, and massage commenced. Such a small person was no easy one to manage, keep happy and unafraid, and at the same time to get thoroughly treated, she did not talk at all and of course did not understand much. After the usual movements were accomplished and we wished to give passive movements, Betty was placed flat on the floor, head resting, and a multiplicity of toys produced and moved about slowly, or placed here and there to attract attention, the same method was employed for her to exercise the neck herself as it got stronger, and in a very few weeks she was as fit as could possibly be wished, and never had a look back.

Phippy was a darling, he had such a funny mother, she used to go everywhere camping and leave poor little Phippy to an ayah, who was very fond of him and good in her way, but was young and did not know much, and the