

THE HOSPITAL SHIP "MADRAS".

BEFORE its conversion into a Hospital Ship, the "Madras" was the British India Steam Navigation Company's new twin screw Steamer "Tanda", built for the Chinese Emigration Service, and, therefore, singularly suitable for a Hospital Ship. Her hull is now painted white with a broad red band, broken in the centre by a Geneva cross which is illuminated at night by electric lights from above. The funnel and upper works are painted yellow. She has five decks disposed as follows.—

- (1) Boat deck upon which the Ship's Officers and Engineers have their cabins.
- (2) Saloon deck with two first class saloons, music room and smoking room.
- (3) Main deck with first and second class cabins and second class dining room (now the operation theatre).
- (4) Upper 'tween deck (9 feet high) running the whole length of the vessel leaving only the engine room casing in the middle.
- (5) The lower 'tween deck consisting of one pillared hall forward of the engine room and bunkers, and a similar hall right aft.

The 'tween decks, divided into six wards, are equipped with 300 Navy-pattern swinging cots and have accommodation for 80 more beds on mattresses. There are also 20 cots for Indian Officers, and, although the accommodation and equipment are intended for the use of the Indian Army only, special arrangements are possible to carry British Troops in an emergency, 6 cabins being reserved for European Officers.

The second class saloon has been gutted of all tables and chairs and converted into two operation rooms divided by a curtain. These rooms are fully equipped with up-to-date appliances; and arrangements exist for warming the operation tables electrically to any desired temperature. Adjoining the theatres are Surgeons' preparation rooms, recovery ward, X-ray room, photographic room, bacteriological laboratory, and lift.

The wards are fitted with vacuum cleaners, worked electrically, and there is special electrical power also for driving the laundry machinery, working the surgical arc Kronig lamp and X-ray apparatus, heating the sterilisers running the pantostat, actuating the bacteriologist's centrifuge, &c., &c.

The Nurses, under Miss Jessop the Matron, have a comfortable sitting room, the medical students and Assistant Surgeons use the smoking room as their sitting room and the officers the music room. All first and second class passengers, *i.e.*, all officers and all students and Assistant Surgeons take meals in the 1st class saloon, but at different timings.

There is accommodation on board for a six months' supply of medical and surgical equipment and food stores, and one hold is stocked with gifts, red cross boxes, luggage, bed linen, blankets, tobacco, spare mattresses, &c., &c. An ample reserve of money in Sterling is carried in a strong room for

emergencies and for obtaining fresh supplies at distant ports. The "Madras" has twice visited Bombay bringing wounded and sick from East Africa and the Persian Gulf, and no one should miss a chance of visiting her when she next arrives, for, from the point of view of general comfort, cleanliness, convenience of all kinds and special appliances, she might well be regarded as a Model Ship for the purpose for which she has been adapted under the direction of Lt.-Colonel Giffard who appears to have omitted nothing which could possibly conduce to the safety, comfort, and welfare of the wounded and their attendants.

A TYPHOID CASE IN THE JUNGLE.

WE had just finished a fairly busy morning's work when a Gowda (or farmer) of some education came up to ask if we would go to see his sister-in-law in a village some 6 miles away. She was said to be suffering from high fever and severe diarrhoea, and her condition seemed distinctly bad, so we put together such things as we needed as quickly as possible and started off in a bullock cart. Fortunately most of the journey was accomplished on the high road and we were able to go at a reasonable speed that is to say about three miles an hour.

When we got to the house we found the patient lying on the verandah in high fever, in a place where no one could reach her and where the sun was beating on her. We were able to persuade the friends to make an alteration which gave her more privacy and also more comfort, but we found that for ceremonial reasons it was absolutely necessary that she should stay outside the house. I did not take long to confirm the suspicion of enteric. I talked for a considerable time with the educated brother-in-law and did my best to persuade him to bring the girl to hospital at once. The brother-in-law was in command, one could easily see that. Neither the father nor the girl's husband appeared to count for much but in spite of the fact that Yenktayya Gowda was educated enough to understand the importance of good nursing, he could not carry his point against the superstitious custom of his people and he would do no more than promise that the girl should come without fail the next day.

All the following day we waited anxiously for her but she did not come and we had no news of her. On Thursday I was called away from the hospital to see a sick child in a village a mile away. While I was attending to it my friend Yenktayya appeared hot and breathless to ask if I could go again to see his sister as she was worse. We hurried back and got what was needed, bedding amongst other things as I was prepared to stay the night; and started off once more.

When we got to the house we found men only in evidence, but I was able to secure the assistance of the patient's own sister and a most devoted sister she was. I succeeded in quieting the friends to some extent and then made