

**The Establishment of a Voluntary Aid Hospital.**—Kom. Rat. Wildhagen (*Das Rote Kreuz*, October 13, 1912), President of the Kitzingen Branch of the Bavarian Red Cross Society, read a paper showing the difficulties which may be encountered when attempting to establish a Red Cross hospital on the outbreak of war. The Kitzingen branch had made certain preparations, and its Committee had reported to the Central Committee that they were prepared to open a hospital of thirty-five beds on the tenth day after mobilization. During 1911 the Committee decided to equip the hospital and get it ready for the reception of patients. Wildhagen was entrusted with the arrangements. On going into the matter he found that the bedding in store was insufficient, that funds were wanting, and that none of the contractors who had agreed to supply necessary articles could do so in the time specified. Wildhagen points out in his paper that the actual state of preparedness was very different to what the Committee believed it to be, and that in case of war, when railway traffic would be disorganized, it would be impossible to make up for lost time. In this case he was able to collect the necessary funds and equipment, but could not report the hospital ready for the reception of sick till long after the time fixed.

C. E. P.

**Army Nursing Sisters in the German Army.**—A press notice (*Der Tag*, November 28, 1912) states that during 1913 six nursing sisters are to be appointed. For the Prussian Army it is intended to have an establishment of sixty nursing sisters. In 1907, twenty were appointed at a salary of £20 a year. In 1908, sixteen were appointed and the salary was raised to £34 10s. with a grant of £7 10s. for outfit on first appointment. An increase in the establishment will probably be sanctioned next year. The introduction of nursing sisters has been followed by most satisfactory results in regard to the care of the sick.

C. E. P.

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## Correspondence.

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### REPORT ON THE METHOD OF FIXING DRESSINGS FOR DEEP SUTURES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

SIR,—With reference to the article under the above heading published in the November Journal, I would venture to suggest that the following method, which has been in use in this Hospital for the past four years, is not only equally efficacious but at the same time simpler and quicker. It has the additional advantage of being applicable to any part of the body, which the method described apparently has not. The following is the method used here: The various layers are sutured in the ordinary way, and then a continuous subcuticular silk-worm gut suture is inserted

with the ends left long. A pad of gauze is then applied over the wound and the two ends of the suture tied together over the pad, or if necessary the ends may be passed through the pad. For those who use the "no further dressing" method, this is sufficient, and the patient may be returned to bed without any fear of the dressing slipping.

This method obviates the introduction of adventitious sutures with their attendant risks of infection, to say nothing of the resulting scars which, although trivial, in certain parts of the body might be unsightly. Another advantage of this method is that the resulting scar is but a thin line, which in many cases becomes quite indistinguishable from the surrounding tissues in a few months.

*Kasauli,*  
*December 23, 1912.*

I am, &c.,

*A. J. WELLS,*  
*Capt. R.A.M.C.*