

The thoughtful provision made by the Government for fording relief where and when required, as related in previous chapter, was warmly seconded by the general ~~unity~~. Johannesburg again, in connection with during the war, proved its inherent charitableness, which had been so fully demonstrated on many previous occasions.

It was inevitable that the almost complete cessation business and the sending to the front of nearly every soldier in the country would cause a great amount distress. Hence there was great opportunity for the exercise of those charitable impulses which have always been so readily responded to in Johannesburg. Besides the supply of food inaugurated by the Government, several relief funds were started, for various purposes, all of which, considering the few people remaining in the town, were very liberally subscribed to.

The most important and most largely <sup>supported</sup> ~~subscribed to~~ were, the van den Berg Fund, started by Mr. Landost van den Berg, and afterwards merged into

larger and more comprehensive Johannesburg  
Charitable Fund.; the "Standard and Diggers'  
ews" Widows and Orphans Fund; the Johannesburg  
Babies' Relief and Distribution Fund, - for the special  
relief of sick and destitute children, and Mr<sup>rs</sup> van  
Osthuizingen's Fund - for supplying comforts beyond  
ordinary commissariat fare to the burghers  
the rich & prominent in particular being catered for in this way.  
in front. Besides these, several others were organ-  
ised at different times for special objects; ~~the most~~  
~~notable~~  
~~and~~  
~~especially~~  
~~notably~~  
~~that for the relief of the~~  
sufferers by the disastrous inundation which occurred  
in April, and which will be fully described later on.  
The aggregate amount collected for the various funds  
reached a very considerable sum of money, and  
considerable enormous quantities of clothes, boots,  
drapery, medicaments, etc. were collected and  
distributed where <sup>they were</sup> most needed.

Another movement which reflected infinite credit  
on the town was the formation of numerous ambu-  
lance corps, both for local service and with the  
regular army. The most ambitious projects were



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THE SCHOOLROOMS AT THE MARIST BROTHERS' SCHOOL, JOHANNESBURG, WHICH HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY A BOMB.

Photos No 16 ~~and 1600~~

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those inaugurated by the Jewish Helping Hand Society; and by the French community, led by M. Colombe, the local French Consul, in conjunction with the Chabat Bros. School - the latter the leading educational institutions in Johannesburg. At the school premises at Joubert Park not only was there a splendid equipment of stretchers, perambulators and the various paraphernalia pertaining to an ambulance corps, but forty-eight beds were fitted up in four of the lofty, well-ventilated school-rooms, converting the school for the time into a most comfortable temporary hospital. This was intended to supplement the accommodation for the wounded at the permanent hospital ~~in~~ in case of necessity. The formal opening of the premises and placing them at the disposal of the Government has made the occasion for quite an imposing function.

The French community, in particular, being present in great force. It may be mentioned by the way, as an illustration of the reduction in the population of the town through the war and consequent exodus, that the Chabat Bros. School, <sup>which</sup> had a normal attendance of over 500 pupils, opened after the Xmas vacation with 110 pupils. The German School, at Hospital Hill, and the Chabat Hall, in Jeppe Street were converted into temporary hospitals to which were removed the ordinary patients.

February 24th, 1900.



THE MARIST BROTHERS, THE CONDUCTORS OF THE CHIEF SCHOOL AT JOHANNESBURG, WHO ARE NOW MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY CORPS. THE CUPBOARDS ON THE LEFT OF THE PICTURE ARE CRAMMED WITH LIVEN FOR HOME SERVICE.

(Photo No. 17)

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from the permanent hospital, <sup>in order</sup> to leave the entire accommodation at the latter place available for the wounded should it be required.

Several ambulance corps went to the front from Johannesburg, including the Town Council corps and a special Scandinavian ambulance attached to the Scandinavian corps raised at the commencement of the war. The equipment of the Jewish ambulance was perhaps, the largest and most complete of all, including as it did, six large ambulance wagons besides many smaller ambulances, hand stretchers and large quantities of mattresses, blankets, pillows, &c. Further accommodation, both hospital and ambulance, was provided at the Government School, on Braamfontein Square, at the Texas Hotel in Bonnivier Street, at St Mary's College, Jeppetown, and in connection with most of the private schools. Great indeed would have been the necessities of the Boers had all the accommodation provided and assistance volunteered been required. But as a matter of fact, scarcely any of it was brought into actual



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quisition - the hospital alone more than sufficient to accommodate all the sick and wounded ~~and~~ brought to Johannesburg, whilst the bulk of such ambulance work as was required was performed by members of the Jewish Ambulance. On being apprised by wire that wounded or sick were arriving by train, a squad of men from this corps met the train at the station with the necessary ambulance wagons and stretchers, and at once removed the wounded bargainers to the hospital or to their homes, as desired. The formation and organization of this excellent corps was principally due to Messrs B. Aaron, J. Glisser, B. P. Sparks, S. Bebro, and other leading members of the Jewish community remaining in Johannesburg. Dr Horwich and Messrs J. Tayfield and Lazarus rendered yeoman service in drilling the men into a knowledge of their duties.

At the New Year I was privileged to accompany this corps for a camping-out of five days at the Waterfall, near Strudersdorp, for <sup>ambulance</sup> practice and exercise; and was greatly impressed with the



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~~Photos 19~~ ~~full page~~

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magnificent equipment of the corps and the splendid manner in which the men performed their drill; executing the various movements and manœuvres - firing "wounded" men, rendering first aid, bringing wounded into camp, etc - with a precision and neatness equally creditable to the men and their instructors.

[The following account of our combined pleasure and business outing, written by me for the Standard & Diggers' News will serve to show how very enjoyable an affair it proved - especially as an ~~extreme~~ ~~we are~~ ~~are~~ in the terrible monotony of our life in Johannesburg - and also how large was the equipment of the corps and the potentialities within it for efficient work either in the town itself or at the front, had it been requisitioned for service in the field.]

The Jewish Ambulance

Outing for Field Practice

In Camp at the Waterfall

[At the commencement of the war the Jewish Benevolent Society was one of the first to establish

an ambulance corps, which has since done good work  
in an unostentatious manner. Squads of men from the  
corps with stretchers and other necessary paraphernalia  
meet every train arriving with sick and wounded men  
from the Front, and convey them to the hospital or to  
their homes. Taking advantage of the quiet days it was decided  
that the corps should have an outing of several days for practice  
at the Waterfall, near Krugersdorp.

In Hart<sup>ing</sup> from the headquarters of the Society - the cigar factory -  
on Sunday morning the members started to arrive as early  
as 3 o'clock, but it was a quarter to five before a start was  
made, the cavalcade consisting of a waggonette, a large  
pic-nic van, and a trolley carrying food and other supplies.  
The party consisted of the chief, Mr. Benson Aaron, in  
command, Capt. S. Bebro, Adjutant Tayfield, Sergeants  
Krause, Shirley & Feinholz and thirty-one men, with  
Dr. D. Horwich and the secretary, Mr. J. Alexander,  
also in attendance. The expedition was accompanied by the  
following visitors : - Messrs S. Hooper and J. Kark, members  
of the Jewish Benevolent Society, A. Abrahams, S. Steinweis,

E. B. Rose, Alex. King and Dorman (sochet.)

[It was originally intended to arrive at the Waterfall in time for breakfast, but owing to the fact that none of the party knew the way, it was not surprising that the wrong road was taken, and the journey out became quite an adventurous one. At a drift some five miles from the Falls the commissariat wagon stuck, and it became necessary to hitch on the mules & of the large van to get it through. Eventually after travelling across country over the veldt, through Kleis, Douglas & ~~Ward~~<sup>Ward</sup> we reached our destination about in time for dinner instead of breakfast.

Lieutenant Sayarus, with a squad of five men, had preceded the party on the previous Friday to prepare the camp, so that on arrival everything was found ready - tents pitched, fires going, water boiling, etc. Her full justice had been done to the dinner the party dispersed, re-assembling at 4 o'clock for the distribution of stretchers, blankets & pillows, & for another meal. Tea was served at 7-30, after which an impromptu concert was held. Then all retired to their allotted tents, beds were made up and at half-past nine the oratorian voice of Mr. Fayfield

was heard giving the order "lights out;" and in a few minutes the camp was shrouded in darkness.

The routine followed was much the same each day and a description of one day (Wednesday) will serve to indicate how the time was occupied. At 4-30 a. m. Adj. Gayfield's shrill whistle woke the echoes of the surrounding hills and also the reluctant sleepers. The genial warmth of the early coffee, however, soon infused more life into them, and they were rewarded for turning out so early by witnessing a glorious sunrise.

[Opening and airing tents, laying out blankets and stretchers on the grass & ~~carrying~~ cleaning up the camp and similar duties brought breakfast time, after which until dinner time at one o'clock, everyone was free to follow the ~~the~~ bent of his inclination, et party, including most of the officers, went to the Mulders Drift Hotel, some three miles from camp. About 5 o'clock ambulance practice was engaged in. The modus operandi was extremely interesting. Certain of the men went out in different directions and at various distances from the camp lay down to represent wounded or disabled men. Adj. Supt. Gayfield then went and found them, blowing his whistle

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