

As soon as we were in possession of the position at El-Teb on the 29th February, about 4.25 P.M., I signalled to Fort Baker, at the instance of Deputy Surgeon-General McDowell, for tents, medical comforts, &c., to be sent on immediately.

As mules had been kept ready laden, the convoy, under Surgeon Prendergast, arrived at 6 P.M., and the serious cases were at once placed under cover for the night.

Additional blankets were provided for the slighter cases, which were kept in the open.

Immediately after the action Surgeon-Major Connolly, who was Principal Medical Officer of the Cavalry Brigade, by my orders, took out eight mule cacolets with a Cavalry escort, and proceeded over the ground where the Cavalry had charged to make sure that no wounded were left, and, as far as possible, to bring in the dead.

After the action of Tamai the wounded were at once brought into the zeriba, and promptly attended to. As the Surgeon-General remarks in his report—"Though many of the wounded had injuries of the severest form, still we had no deaths from hæmorrhage, a fact which exhibits, in the strongest light, the skill and attention of the Medical Officers working under the most trying circumstances."

The following Medical Officers are especially brought to your notice for their care and attention to their important duties in the field on the occasion of the actions at El-Teb and Tamai:—

Surgeon-Major Wilson, Principal Medical Officer of the Infantry Brigade; Surgeon-Major Connolly, Principal Medical Officer, Cavalry Brigade; Surgeon Prendergast, who was badly wounded while attending a wounded man at Tamai; Surgeon-Major Cattherwood, Principal Medical Officer at the base, and Surgeon-Major Greene at El-Teb; Surgeon-Major Venour had charge of the sick on hospital ship at the base (H.M.S. "Jumna"), and assisted by a detachment of Army Hospital Corps, made every possible provision for the care of the wounded on their passage to Suez.

I also beg to bring to your notice the services rendered by the Army Hospital Corps.

Quartermaster Enright, Army Hospital Corps, is reported as having carried out his duties with indefatigable energy and devotion.

Staff-Sergeants Clarke and Genese, also Sergeant A. G. Chalk (whose leg was broken by a fall from a mule), are favourably mentioned.

The names given are those of Officers whose conduct came most prominently to notice, but all the Medical Officers attached to the force have contributed to the excellent results attained.

Commissariat and Transport Corps.—The Commissariat and Transport Department under Assistant Commissary-General Nugent have given me very great satisfaction by the indefatigable zeal and intelligence with which they have worked to bring up supplies to the front. The task before this department was a very difficult one. The supply of food, water, and ammunition in a waterless country with no roads required a good organization, abundant means of transport, and great energy in working it. The water transport alone required incessant watching, as many of the skins supplied from stores were found to leak so much as to be worthless. Fortunately Egyptian camel tanks had been brought, and the Navy furnished some breakers. The greatest vigilance had to be exercised to prevent the native camel drivers and soldiers from drinking and wasting the water on the road. The storage of the water at the base, and at the advanced dépôt or zeribas

was of vital importance. Here again the Navy came to our assistance with empty barrels and large canvas tanks, which latter proved invaluable.

I must, in connection with this subject, acknowledge my sense of the great service rendered to the expedition by Mr. Crook, Chief Engineer of H.M.S. "Euryalus," and those under him.

Nothing could exceed the ability and devotion with which Assistant Commissary-General Nugent threw himself into his work, and he was ably supported by those under him, who literally worked night and day when the service required it. I must especially mention Deputy Assistant-Commissary-Generals Rainsford and Hamilton, who proved themselves most valuable Officers.

Major Forster, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Lieutenant Turner, Shropshire Light Infantry, and Lieutenant Bower, 3rd King's Royal Rifles, employed on transport duties, and Conductor Hickie, also deserve mention for their zeal and energy.

Ordnance Store Department.—The Ordnance Store Department under Assistant Commissary-General of Ordnance Mills has worked most satisfactorily. The supplies of reserve ammunition have come up without any delay. The organization for storage and transport was good, while Officers and men worked hard to meet all requirements. I have especially to bring to notice Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General of Ordnance Houghton for his zeal and intelligence.

Army Chaplains.—I have to record my sense of the services of the Army Chaplains attached to the force.

The following Chaplains—The Revs. G. Smith, Church of England; J. McTaggart, Presbyterian; and R. Brindle, Roman Catholic, were present in the field, and assiduous in their attention to the wounded.

The Rev. J. Webster, Wesleyan, also accompanied the expedition.

Army Veterinary Department.—The duties of the Veterinary Department were satisfactorily carried on by Principal Veterinary-Surgeon Clayton and those under him.

Army Pay Department.—The Army Pay Department was well administered by Major Farwell.

I have also to express my thanks to Mr. Wyld (now at the head of the police of Suakin) for the services rendered by him to the expedition when giving information as to the locality, and when in charge of the Abyssinian scouts, on the 12th and 13th of March.

Naval Brigade.—In my previous Despatch I have already mentioned the splendid services of the Naval Brigade.

At El-Teb they fought under the eyes of their Admiral, who accompanied the force into the field, and cheerfully bore his share of danger when the square came under fire.

With Admiral Hewett was Captain Wilson, commanding H.M.S. "Hecla," who was not content with the position of a spectator, but took such an active share in the defence of the sailors' guns in a hand-to-hand combat, that I have in my report to the Admiral recommended this Officer for the distinction of the Victoria Cross.

The Naval Brigade suffered severely in the actions of El-Teb and Tamai. Lieutenant Royds (a most promising Officer, since dead) was dangerously wounded at El-Teb, and, by the direction of the Admiral, Surgeon Gimlette, R.N., and twelve men were told off to carry Lieutenant Royds back to the fleet.