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Miss Smedley Lectures on Experiences on Fronts - Editorial  
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EDITORIAL

**PLIGHT OF SINO WOUNDED  
IN THE PRESENT WAR**

**Miss Smedley Lectures On  
Experiences On Fronts**

The plight of the Chinese wounded in the present war cannot be compared favourably with that of the wounded in any war in the past century. Of 2,600 wounded soldiers who left the front lines to receive treatment for wounds received in one single battle, only 1,000 reached the base hospital alive, MISS AGNES SMEDLEY, the noted author, said yesterday in a lecture given at the Fung Ping Shan Library on the subject "Experiences on the Chinese Fronts."

Even the lightly wounded men often died of infection before they could reach a base hospital some 15 days' journey from the front. Many of them had to do the journey on foot, while others were jolted over rough roads in ox-carts, suffering great pain. In the hospitals, there were no pain-killing drugs and men of the medical corps pulled from wads of cotton wool that had neither been washed nor sterilised.

The chief problem to be faced by the Chinese Red Cross was the re-education of the medical corps, numbering some 230,000 men, of whom about 20,000 were officers. So far, some 4,200 men have been trained in medical training schools staffed by the Chinese Red Cross.

**IN OTHER WORK**

This organisation itself could call upon only some 200 qualified doctors and many of these men were engaged in other work than care of the wounded.

In some hospitals, the only attention the wounded received was from boys of about 10 years of age who came around once a day with medicine and instructions on how many times a day to take it.

Soldiers were, however, looking after their wounded comrades.

The Chinese peasant is also opening his home to the wounded today and wounded soldiers are given beds in peasant homes until they can be moved on. In most cases, however, no attempt is made to dress the wounds and little more is done to take care of the wounded man than giving him a little rice to eat.

Questioned about the attitude adopted by Japanese prisoners of war upon capture, Miss Smedley said that usually they were frightened almost to death.

**KOREAN VOLUNTEERS**

A great many responded to kind treatment, though among them only a very few officers. For a considerable period in the early part of the war, Korean volunteers were put in charge of Japanese prisoners, and were entrusted with the job of separating them into various groups. On one occasion she came across a Japanese in Chinese uniform acting as guide to a line of wounded soldiers.

Prof. Hsu Ti-shan introduced the speaker and Mr. Walter Hanming Chen proposed the vote of thanks.