dangerous to attempt to make your conservancy system a successful commercial enterprise, as safety is likely to be sacrificed for the sake of profit; (ii.) it is a mistake to rely upon an agent, the physical conditions of which are liable to such great variations as the soil, to convert the often dangerous sewage into harmless and valuable manure without danger to the health of the community. The sewage should be made harmless before it is committed to the ground; to do otherwise is to lean for safety on the broken reed of chance, instead of on the iron staff of science.

I am, &c.

S. Glenn Allen,
Lieutenant-Colonel, R.A.M.C.

Kalabagh, Hazara,
Punjab.
September 25th, 1906.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS IN INDIA.

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

DEAR SIR,—I am addressing this to you in the hope that other officers of the Corps may be induced to ventilate their opinions on the above subject.

The present system in vogue in India of employing soldiers from the units in garrison as nursing orderlies is out of date, unsuitable in every way, and has many grave disadvantages from the point of view of the regimental officer, the medical officer, and the man himself. The regimental officer, often at his wits' end to get through the amount of work called for from him in these strenuous times, is hardly to be blamed if the men he sends to hospital as orderlies are not noted for intelligence. They are, in fact, too often the men whom he can best spare, i.e., the most useless and lazy. Of course, there are many excellent nurses among the regimental nursing orderlies—men who seem to have hit upon their vocation, so to speak. These men prefer to remain as nurses, take an interest in their work, and can be properly trained. But, unfortunately, a large number of men do not care for the work, and their one object is to get back to duty again. Another great disadvantage of the system is that the hospital orderly is constantly being changed; no sooner has he been partially trained than he returns to duty to go through, say, a course of musketry, or what not, and a raw man is sent in his place, who has to be trained all over again from the beginning. The consequence of this is that there are always a number of partially-trained men doing duty as nurses, who are often, owing to pressure of work, called upon to do duties which could only be properly
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carried out by a highly-trained man. The results of this are sometimes disastrous. Owing to the shortage of Army nursing sisters in India, the rôle of nursing orderly is even of more importance than at home. To a man who does not take an interest in nursing, the duties he has to perform are often disagreeable and irksome; besides this, he often loses his "efficiency" pay by becoming an "orderly," and does not work hard enough to qualify for extra pay as a nurse; the result is that he is careless and not to be depended on.

India is a good country to serve in, and would be popular with the non-commissioned officers and men of the Corps. The extra expense entailed would be more than compensated for by the advantages accruing to all concerned.

I am, &c.

G. A. Keppel H. Reed,
Captain, R.A.M.C.

Nowgong,
Central India,
August 11th, 1906.