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Hospitals and medical supplies

Excerpt from the writings of George Abel Schreiner (a war correspondent of the Associated Press of America, who observed and wrote about events in the Ottoman Empire).

Beersheba, a prosperous town of the ancient province of Idumea, was the southern base of operations for the advance on Suez....

The soldiers themselves suffered much hardship. The crowding in the tents was unspeakable; the water-supply almost as inadequate as the medical service, which consisted chiefly of volunteer Red Crescent societies – among them a unit of twenty German nurses sent by the American College of Beirut. Medical supplies, such as they were, had been taken from the different mission hospitals and pharmacies of Palestine – these “requisitions” being made by officers who knew nothing of medical requirements and simply scooped together everything in sight. As a result, one of the army physicians told me that in Beersheba he had opened some medical chests consigned to him and found, to his horror, that they were full of microscopes and gynecological instruments – for the care of wounded soldiers in the desert!

Alexander Aaronsohn. *With the Turks in Palestine*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1916. 40-42.

A World War I field hospital in the Middle East in 1917. The staff are members of the Red Crescent Society.



<http://old-photos.blogspot.com/2008/07/world-war-i-field-hospital.html>