

The first list of goods to be supplied included bandages of all sizes; absorbent cotton; first-aid packages; shell wound dressings; bichloride gauze; adhesive plaster; ligatures of all kinds.

The gauze packages consumed 110-million yards of gauze. It was necessary to secure the assistance of spinning and weaving mills, outside of the group of straight surgical dressings manufacturers to supply this immense yardage. Since the beginning of these requisitions up to the present time there has been a total of 386,000,000 yards of gauze contracted for. That has required day and night work of 30 different weaving mills. The yards of gauze equal 219,000 miles in length and one yard width and that means, taking the distance from New York to San Francisco in round figures as about 3000 miles, one continuous stretch of gauze from New York to San Francisco, back and forth, 70 times. To manufacture that quantity of gauze, just the gauze alone, would require 77,000 bales of cotton. Each bale weighing 500 lbs., this would mean 38,500,000 pounds of crude cotton requiring quite a respectable size plantation to produce it. There were 450,000 gross gauze bandages, compressed, ordered, which were $2\frac{1}{2}$ " 3 " and $3\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and 6-yds. long; 6,400,000 first aid packets put up in metal boxes enamelled in khaki color to match the soldiers' uniform; two of these go in a belt which each soldier carries; and in addition, two rubber-sheeting covered first-aid packets also go in his belt. Of those, there were ten million ordered. There were 34,000,000 yards Corrosive Sublimate Gauze, 1-yd. packages. One million and a half spools adhesive plaster, 1" x 5-yd., and one half-million $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5-yds., 1,400,000 shell wound dressings.

Details of other manufactures were given and Doctor Lovis closed his paper with a reference to the loyalty of those engaged in this line of manufacture.

Mr. S. B. Penick spoke of former sources of crude drugs from which supplies are no longer available. Some of these drugs are now obtained in this country, belladonna, digitalis, cannabis, hyoscyamus, stramonium, etc. The high cost of labor continues to be a problem but under present conditions supply is of first importance. Japan is furnishing valerian, chamomiles, hellebore and insect flowers while Italy, France and England are now supplying a number of botanicals heretofore procured from Central Europe. Nux vomica, rhubarb, senna, aloes and other drugs of the East have been difficult to obtain. The speaker alluded to the improved quality of drugs, due to Government supervision, and concluded with a compliment to those of the trade, who have coöperated in furnishing the Government and manufacturers with crude drugs. (See also paper by S. B. Penick, August issue, 1917, p. 695.)

CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU CONCERNING NATION'S HOSPITALS.

Dr. Franklin Martin, member of the advisory commission and chairman of the general medical board of the Council of National Defense, authorizes the following:

Information regarding the hospitals of the United States, in process of compilation since 1916, is now collated and indexed in the medical section of the Council of National Defense. A central bureau of information concerning the hospital facilities of the country, under war conditions, is thus provided. The data will be kept up to date from month to month. This bureau has not only the details of over 1,000 active hospitals but is also gathering full data concerning nearly 8,000 other institutions which include sanatoria, infirmaries, homes, asylums and dispensaries.

What each hospital has contributed in the way of medical men and internes for war service has been entered on the cards. The number of nurses who have volunteered and those remaining, the possibilities of expansion for war service, the results of personal inspection by State boards will constitute valuable active working data.—*Official Bulletin.*
