

Simplified transcript

Extract from the 'Report upon the state of the hospitals of the British army in the Crimea and Scutari', February 1855

Miss Nightingale said she had seen “blankets come back from the wash torn and covered in stains.” She had to throw away so-called clean blankets. Also, shirts which were supposed to be clean came into the hospital covered in lice.

To improve washing in the hospital, Miss Nightingale set up a wash-house with boilers, [to heat water] paid for by the engineer’s office and her own money. In January, 500 shirts and 150 other things were washed; but these numbers do not show how bad the washing problem was. However, washing, wringing, and drying machines have arrived from England, to do the washing here.

From Miss Nightingale’s evidence, she supplied some of the things that were needed. This was because the quality of things from the hospital suppliers was not good, rather than a shortage of goods. This was the case with respect to the chickens, arrow root, milk, port wine, and brandy. The other articles in the list were refused to Miss Nightingale when she asked for them.

We would like to point out that the amount of port wine used in these hospitals is too much and not necessary for the sick.