



Transcript

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

Miss Nightingale states in her evidence in February, that she had seen “blankets come back from the wash torn and covered in stains.” She added, that she had herself “sorted these blankets when taking in sick, and added “been compelled to throw away the so-called clean blankets till they could be “carried away and destroyed”. Mr. Stuart gave us a similar description of the washing at an earlier period. We must add, that shirts have been brought into the ward as clean which were found on examination with lice upon them.

With the view of meeting to some extent the want of proper washing, Miss Nightingale established a wash-house on the 30th November, which was provided with boilers, partly from the engineer office, partly from her own resources. The average number of articles washed weekly at the establishment during the month of January was 500 shirts and 150 other articles; but these figures, like the other returns which we returned from the same quarter, do not indicate the whole extent of the evil sought be remedied. We are glad to state, however, that washing, wringing, and drying machines have arrived from England, for the purpose of doing all the washing of these establishments.

AVERAGE DAILY ISSUE OF EXTRA DIETS supplied from F. NIGHTINGALE'S KITCHENS to the EXTRA DIET ROLLS of the Medical Officers, Barrack Hospital, SCUTARI, from 13th January 1855 to 13th February.

No. supplied	-----	From Public Stores	From Private Sources
25 Gallons	Beef tea	80lbs. beef	-
15 “	Chicken broth	28 chickens	12 chickens
40 “	Arrow root	-----	Arrow root
15 “	Sago	-----	Sago
240 quarts	Barley Water	Barley	-----
10 “	Rice water	Rice	-----
8 “	Lemonade	-----	Lemons
30 “	Milk	-----	Milk
275 portions	Rice puddings	Rice	-----
15 bottles	Port wine	-----	Port wine
3 “	Marsala	-----	Marsala
3 “	Brandy	-----	Brandy
15lbs	Jelly	-----	Isinglass
4 dozen	Eggs	-----	Eggs
40	Chickens	28 chickens	12 chickens

From Miss Nightingale's evidence, it appears that some of the articles which she supplied from private sources were so supplied, not because the purveyor was unable to furnish the goods in question, but because the quality of those which he procured was not good. 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 on requisition.

With exception of such articles, the observations which we have already made upon the bearing of Miss Nightingale's supplementary assistance to the purveying departments apply to the list lastly set forth.

We think it right to observe, with respect to one important article in the catalogue of medical comforts, viz., port wine, that the quantity which has been used, as we are informed, in these hospitals, has been in our opinion greatly excessive, and wholly disproportioned to the real wants of the sick.