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*From the Author*

ON THE GENEVA CONVENTION OF AUGUST  
THE 22ND, 1864,

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES  
FORMED FOR AIDING IN AMELIORATING THE CON-  
DITION OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED OF ARMIES IN  
TIME OF WAR.

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A LECTURE DELIVERED AT THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.

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## LECTURE.

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Friday, March 16th, 1866.

MAJOR SIR HARRY VERNEY, Bart., M.P., in the Chair.

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ON THE GENEVA CONVENTION OF AUGUST THE 22<sup>ND</sup>, 1864, WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEES FORMED FOR AIDING IN AMELIORATING THE CONDITION OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED OF ARMIES IN TIME OF WAR.

By Deputy Inspector-General T. LONGMORE, Professor of Military Surgery at the Army Medical School.

The CHAIRMAN: I have the pleasure of introducing to you Professor Longmore, Professor of Military Surgery at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley. He has seen a great deal of service in the Crimea, and he has given particular attention to the subject which he brings before us to-day. Professor Longmore was sent by our Government to the Conference which was held at Geneva two years ago; and I beg to mention to you that this morning Miss Nightingale said to me, she thought there was no person better qualified to give an opinion upon the subject, and to discuss it, than Professor Longmore.

Professor LONGMORE: In the early part of last winter it was intimated to me that the Council of the Royal United Service Institution desired to have a lecture on the subject of the International Congress, which was held at Geneva, in 1864, for ameliorating the condition of the wounded soldiers of armies in the field by obtaining a treaty for their neutralization, and I was asked if I would undertake its delivery. I acceded to the request without hesitation, and I did so for two reasons. The first was that I knew there existed no little misapprehension in the minds of some persons in this country respecting the objects of this Congress, and considerable doubt as to the practicability of carrying into effect the terms of the international treaty which resulted from it; the second was, that having had the honour of being sent to the Congress as one of the representatives of the British Government, and, moreover, having acted at the Congress as one of the members of the sub-committee, whose duty it was to weigh carefully the written terms in



speak of those told off for staff employ. As to those for regimental service, I only know that recommendations have been made, and orders have been issued to make provision for the proper care of what may be expected to be the proportion of wounded of regiments in action by the previous instruction and preparation of certain soldiers in those regiments, set apart specially for this duty. The purpose was that these men, being only trained for attending on the wounded, for hospital work, and not in rifle practice, should not be liable to be taken away for fighting purposes, leaving the wounded without proper relief; how far this is carried out in practice I cannot say. As to the necessity for such a provision I don't think there can be two opinions. As regards the staff arrangements, there is now in this country an "Army Hospital Corps," which has only been formed or rather received its present constitution, since the Crimean war. That Hospital Corps now numbers about 1,000 men in its ranks. It is regularly organised. Every man belonging to the medical branch of the corps, nearly 500 in number, is systematically trained, or in the course of being trained, in the duties of carrying and tending the wounded, both on the field itself, and in the hospital subsequently. There is every reason to believe that this corps will prove of essential service in time of war; though the number available for surgical duty being so limited, it will doubtless require expansion to meet the wants of a campaign.