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gauze and cotton wool, you'd say. But a dysentery pad (9" x 12") consists of a layer of gauze, a layer of cotton wool, a layer of "spaghetti" (white clean linen cut into the most minute fragments and strips); a layer of cotton wool and a layer of gauze, all neatly sewn into an envelope of gauze and evenly quilted. This is 45 minutes' work, not counting the time taken by volunteer old ladies and school girls to cut the "spaghetti"



Fifty years between them: the oldest hands and the youngest at work on surgical dressings.

in their spare time. The burns dressings are bigger (22" x 14"), and are layers of waxed paper, cellucotton and gauze in a stitched gauze envelope. Dysentery pads made for the U.S. Forces are bigger (15" x 18"), and have a backing of 10 sheets of newspaper with layers of "spaghetti" or cotton waste, cotton wool, and gauze inside the gauze envelope.

You'd think, just casually, that all this work would be fairly easy—just ripping gauze and sewing it into squares and oblongs and rollers with a tape or two sewn on the corners. But every piece of gauze has to be cut, not ripped, exactly on the straight. So the first step in the making of every dressing and bandage is to draw threads so that the shapes may be cut on the straight. The thread-drawing is not a quick process; the cutting is still less quick. And then there are the "whiskers"—the raw edge threads.

No "Whiskers" Allowed

"We're death on 'whiskers,'" Mrs. Landon said. "Every article made is examined by someone other than the maker before it leaves. It doesn't matter how good a worker is, we still examine everything—and we examine chiefly for raw edges. There mustn't be a thread or a raw edge anywhere. All tapes are hemmed at the ends, yes, even these long ones on the abdominal dressings; they're used for hanging a clip to, to make sure the dressing isn't left inside the unfortunate patient; the final seams are done by hand; yes, they're neat sewers — they should be, with all the practice they've had."

Mrs. Landon told me some figures. For the 12 months ended March 31, 1944, the section made more than 7000 articles for New Zealand hospitals (here and overseas) as well as 12,600 articles for an American base hospital. These included more than 8000 battle dressings (the carefully padded and folded gauze dressing attached to a

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We New Zealanders owe a debt to our country for all the happiness that life has brought us. Some of us can pay that debt by service in the Forces; some by working harder in factory or field; some by doing without comforts so that we may have more money to lend to the Nation. All of us must be ready to make whatever sacrifices are demanded of us.

Out of their conserved savings, the members of the A.M.P. have lent the Government of New Zealand over £9,000,000 and £46,000,000 to the Australian Commonwealth Government, and are putting £500,000 into War Loans every month.

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