

II

RECEPTION OF MILITARY PATIENTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE HOSPITAL, 1915

First Batch of Patients Arrive.—The first military patients arrived on 20th May, 1915, and consisted of seventy-two sitting up cases transferred from the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. They were a cheery lot and soon made themselves completely at home. Later in the day I visited the three wards opened, and Tommy's habit of settling down comfortably in new and strange quarters was manifest. In every ward some form of musical entertainment was in progress, the billiard tables all occupied, and some patients were already busy helping the nurses. They one and all expressed themselves highly delighted with their surroundings. It was a happy augury for the future.

On the following Sunday the soldiers paraded at church and joined heartily in the singing. We had a fine choir and organ, and it was a moment of excusable thrills when all stood to attention at the end of the service and sang "God Save the King." This practice was continued ever afterwards.

The first cot cases arrived on 26th May, also transfers from the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, and the first discharges were made on 31st May.

Assistance to the Matron.—It was decided that instead of appointing assistant matrons the Matron should have the assistance of a higher grade of sisters, who were to be called principal sisters. The senior on duty would act as deputy matron when the Matron was away. Sister A. Harrower was selected as first Principal Sister.

First Medical Board held.—On 5th June, 1915, the first medical board was held, upon which I sat as President.



Noel Cox

Reception of a Convoy at Epsom Station

Noel Cox

A Surgical Ward

Every central hospital has an invaliding medical board which also boards for the surrounding district. The first officer was boarded on 16th June.

Soldiers' Final Resting Place.—It was necessary to make arrangements for laying to rest the remains of those patients for whom medical science had proved unavailing. It was anticipated that this would be a frequent occurrence, owing to the severity of the wounds. As regards the actual funeral there were precise military directions which could be carried out in proper manner without difficulty. In the absence of any specific instructions regarding a place of burial for those whom it was necessary to bury locally, the Sub-Committee took the matter up, and certain steps were taken. Regarding the military funerals the Army Service Corps arranged contracts for the supply of coffins, and firing parties and bearers were to be obtained from neighbouring camps and depots. There only remained the cemetery arrangements and the provision of a gun carriage. On 9th June, I visited the Epsom District Cemetery and saw the sites proposed by Mr. Capon, the Epsom Council Surveyor, as suitable for the interment of soldiers. I selected an excellent situation, which could be seen from the public road leading up to the Race Course, and thus suitable for the possible erection later of a soldiers' memorial. It was impossible to estimate the amount of land which would be required, but the Epsom Authorities agreed to reserve, for soldiers only, a large area in case of need. The expenses allowed by the Army Council for the burial of troops was very limited, but we were considerably helped in this respect by the patriotic action of the Rev. Henry A. Bowles, the Vicar of the Parish, who remitted his fees. It was also necessary to bury several soldiers in one grave, but considering the comradeship which existed among soldiers during life, this did not appear to me to be objectionable. In any case no other arrangement could be made at this time.

Lord Kitchener kindly interested himself in the provision of a thirteen-pounder gun carriage and limber, which arrived here on 24th June, 1915.

Almoner's Work. Indoor and Outdoor Recreation.—The wards had been equipped with a variety of games, and

almost every ward had a piano and a small billiard table. The soldiers' recreation room soon became a popular resort of the patients. All the large billiard tables had been erected here, and there were plenty of comfortable chairs and settees, table games, also newspaper stands—in fact, all the appointments of a working man's club. On several days a week the Lady Almoner and her assistants attended and gave out a free supply of tobacco, cigarettes, matches, and other comforts. This was in addition to the distribution in the wards to those who were confined to bed. Arrangements were made to make full use of the large and well equipped stage. Mr. Taylor, the House Steward, working in conjunction with the Lady Almoner, undertook the management of the soldiers' recreation room as a theatre, and soon there were concerts, theatrical entertainments, variety shows in full swing almost every day, often twice daily.

Neither was the welfare of the soldier neglected when out of doors. Mr. Sidney P. Jackson, of Epsom, who had already been very generous to the hospital, was appointed director of outdoor recreation and pastimes. He took charge of the recreation grounds; and tennis, cricket matches, etc., were commenced. He also organised a service of motor and other vehicles to take the patients out for country drives, especially those who were unable to get about and explore the beauties of the neighbourhood for themselves. I attached a great importance to the provision of healthy recreation, especially during convalescence, as a valuable tonic to the nervous system, which more or less was certain to suffer in warfare.

Appointment of Officiating Clergy and an additional Chaplain.—It is convenient to mention here the appointment of the officiating clergy. I have already stated that the chaplains to the permanent hospital were transferred to war service with the other staff. The Rev. F. E. England, B.D., was now appointed Wesleyan Minister, while the Rev. S. Lipson undertook the spiritual care of the Jewish soldiers. Later in the year the Presbyterians were ministered to by the Rev. F. M. Ferguson, M.A., an earnest and eloquent divine, whose intrinsic worth and fund of humour were much appreciated by both patients and staff. The

additional Chaplain (Church of England) posted was the Rev. J. W. McCombe, M.A.

Services in Church at hours suitable for each denomination were arranged, the side chapel being reserved, as in the past, for Roman Catholics.

General Routine.—I quite early laid it down, as a governing principle, that the mornings were to be reserved for medical and other necessary work, while in the afternoons the wards were to be thrown open to visitors, including the chaplains and officiating clergy, and devoted to recreation of all kinds. In the evenings the nurse was to predominate, and, apart from the visit of the Orderly Officer, was, as far as possible, to be undisturbed in her duties. With the Matron's cognisance the sisters in charge had to arrange ward concerts, whist drives, etc., having special regard to those confined to the wards and unable to take part in the larger entertainments in the hall. Nothing, however, had to interfere with the proper medical care of the patients, especially the serious cases. Proper provision was made for assistance in emergencies and for the reception of convoys.

Arrival of First Convoy from Overseas.—June 16th, 1915, was a red-letter day in the history of the hospital. About mid-day the first convoy direct from overseas arrived, consisting of 99 surgical and 51 medical cases, in all 150 patients, 51 of whom were cot cases. The arrangements made for their reception and transport to the hospital worked expeditiously, and they were all in the wards in fifty minutes. Convoys now arrived every few days, and by the end of August we had received nearly 2,000 patients, and our patient population was as a rule about 1,000. As might have been expected, as in other places, the soldiers at the station were received with great enthusiasm by the public, who would, out of gratitude, had they been permitted, at once have provided them with refreshments while awaiting transport to the hospital. I could not permit this, though fully appreciating the motive of kindness. It was sure to result in delay and disorganise the transport and interfere with the celerity which was essential; and moreover, cocoa, oxo, bovril, etc., were awaiting the patients in the wards.

This rapid evacuation of the trains was important, for there were none too many to deal with the large number of wounded arriving. It was a really interesting and impressive sight to watch a convoy arrive, either at the station or hospital, and many a time have I heard comments in praise of the business-like way and the quiet precision with which this work was done.

Opening of Special Departments.—The hospital soon became a very busy place indeed. There was activity everywhere, and all the operating theatres and special treatment departments were in full swing by the end of June. By the beginning of July, there was sufficient nursing staff for 1747 patients, and more wards were being opened almost daily. It was not, however, until the beginning of December that our numbers rose to nearly 2,000.

The hospital now settled down to a steady routine as far as the changing circumstances would allow, and any anxiety as to the success of the administration was at an end. Everything the Army Council had wished for had been provided. A fine spirit actuated everybody and resulted in an atmosphere of cheerfulness, good comradeship, and activity, which nothing ever dispelled. There was a real discipline present, akin to that of a civilian hospital, without any neglect of the essential military control of the patient.

Gas Poisoning Cases.—Quite early, cases of gas poisoning were admitted, which at that time aroused great resentment. The early cases would have extracted pity from a stone, their suffering was intense. Men felt that they went out to fight a square battle and not to be suffocated before they had a chance to show the enemy their mettle. Later in the campaigns we were to see the secondary effects of this mode of warfare, which often resulted in permanent impairment of health or comparative uselessness for months, even years.

Early Gifts.—The gifts to the hospital, like wedding gifts, were numerous, and many of them costly. Although nearly everything essential was provided from army funds, yet there were many things which tended to make the patient's lot happier, for the supply of which we looked to the general public.

Her Majesty the Queen, as early as July, sent the Hospital her first gift of tobacco, cigarettes and pipes. Lady St. Helier's appeals in the newspapers for support met with a good response, and the Epsom Press, by publishing our wants in the locality, proved good friends to the hospital. Epsom and its surrounding districts were most generous, not only as regards flowers, fruit, interesting books, papers, etc., but in providing carriages and motors to take the patients out for country drives, and inviting them to their homes for social enjoyment. It was not the value of any gift that most pleased Tommy; it was more the spirit which actuated it.

Soldiers' Love for Children.—They were very much touched by the school childrens' gifts of eggs, collected from friends and neighbours, and other gifts much appreciated were such as that of a set of bowls from the boys at Frethern school, who allotted money they would otherwise have received in prizes. Juvenile entertainments, costume dancing, and revues from childrens' dancing classes, too, were always a source of delight to the soldier.

The First Death and Funeral.—The first death occurred on 17th July, 1915, and at the military funeral which followed impressive scenes were witnessed. Epsom never got used to these sad events, and at every funeral the inhabitants always manifested the deep respect they had for "our glorious dead."

Sub-Committee Meetings.—The Sub-Committee continued to meet once a month and found plenty of scope in the economic management of the hospital affairs. They afforded me every support in my military administration of the hospital, and I was much indebted to them for help and advice in the performance of my duties. Mr. Greenwood, the Chairman, spared no effort to make the administrative machinery run smoothly.

Official and Other Visitors.—Colonel Simpson, the A.D.M.S., inspected the hospital from time to time, and his advice often saved me from falling into grievous errors.

Viscount Portman, accompanied by Lady Portman, visited the hospital on 8th July. He was very interested in all he saw and satisfied that the patients were well cared

for. He was a polished aristocrat and unmistakably the officer of the Guards—a fine type of an English gentleman, loved and respected everywhere. He afterwards sent us £50 for the Almoner's Fund.

On 9th July, General Sir A. W. L. Bayly, K.C.B., formerly Colonel, 126th Baluchistan Infantry, who later became Inspector of Temporary Non-Effectives, paid his first visit. He was mainly interested in the soldier's *morale* and the military side of his hospital life. In a larger sphere he had to do with the soldier's welfare during and after convalescence, and with hardening for service abroad. He took a great interest in the administration of the hospital, and took copious notes of all I had to say about the management of the soldier whilst in hospital. It is said he had a good deal to do with the compilation of the "Book of General Instructions," which came to be known as "Bayly's Bible." It dealt with the admission, disposal, and discipline of soldiers in hospitals of all kinds, in convalescent camps and command depots, and all such matters relating to both imperial and colonial troops. He subsequently paid many visits to the hospital and was always a welcome visitor. I was indebted to him for much valuable military instruction and other help and guidance.

Sir Frederick Eve, F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon to the Eastern Command, commenced his visits on 16th July. He always had a meed of praise for the surgical work, and I had ample reason to be satisfied and free from anxiety in this respect. He was gentle and unobtrusive in manner, but a sound surgeon and greatly respected by the surgical staff.

H.R.H. Princess Christian paid her second visit on 26th July. Her advice was much valued, for she had a sound practical knowledge of hospitals. Her sympathy with the patients and kind manner to all, not omitting her quaint humour, made her visits a real pleasure to us.

On 30th July, we were honoured by a visit from Major-General Lord H. F. Cheylesmore, K.C.M.G., and although in mufti he was soon recognised by the patients, who were very pleased with his visit.

Sphere of Work Enlarges: Auxiliary Hospitals.—In July we began to receive the sick from convalescent and training camps in the neighbourhood, and to take in local

sick soldiers. Preparations were made to attach to the hospital a number of auxiliary hospitals which were, or had already been, opened in the surrounding districts. It obviously meant much addition to the work here, both as regards myself, the Registrar, the Clerk, and to a lesser extent the House Steward. The necessary arrangements were made, and by the middle of September I had taken over :—

	No. of Beds.
Epsom & Ewell War Hospital, Epsom ...	50
Schiff Home of Recovery, Cobham ...	21
"Duxhurst," Reigate ...	100
The Ward Hospital, Reigate ...	18
Kitto Relief Hospital, Reigate ...	24
Nelson Hospital, Wimbledon ...	15
Red House Hospital (V.A.D.), Leatherhead ...	35
Kingston Union Infirmary ...	100
Later in the year were added :—	
Wimbledon Hospital, Thurstan Road, Wimbledon	20
South Croydon Relief Hospital, Brighton Road, Croydon ...	20
and temporarily :—	
Piccard's Rough Hospital, Guildford ...	50
Total	453

In succeeding chapters any changes or matters of interest regarding the auxiliary hospitals will be related. The transfers to Auxiliary Hospitals commenced on 23rd July, 1915, when fifty cases were sent to Duxhurst.

The Coming of the Colonial.—Although we had admitted a few colonials, chiefly Canadians and a few Australians from Woodcote Convalescent Camp, it was not until September that we were to become thoroughly acquainted with this type of soldier. There occurred then what can only be called an Australian invasion, as far as the hospital was concerned. At one time it almost seemed possible that we should have to capitulate entirely to our oversea cousins, and it was not without a little difficulty and some diplomacy that the hospital preserved its British character. Few, if any, British hospitals in the county have had anything approaching the number of colonial patients to care for, and for months at a time they formed nearly half the total

number of patients resident daily. They arrived in great numbers from overseas ; and from Woodcote Camp, only a short distance away, which first accommodated a large number of Australians and was afterwards devoted wholly to Canadians. At first there were no colonial hospitals, and the colonial policy was to have their soldier patients as much as possible in the larger hospitals for the sake of mutual companionship and ready access by representatives of colonial organisations.

It was on the night of Friday, 10th September, 1915, that the real invasion began. Having a large number of vacancies, and the hospital being within easy reach from the coast, I was notified of one, then a second, and then a third convoy, all within a few hours. They were from Gallipoli, chiefly Australians, and sufferers from dysentery and typhoid. Never will the hospital forget that night. We were subjected to a severe ordeal, mentally and physically, but when it was over, and the patients settled in their wards, we felt justly proud of what we had accomplished. The first convoy arrived soon after 10 p.m. and the last about 3 a.m., the number of patients received totalled 604, many being cot cases. By 4 a.m. they were all housed and comfortable ; but it was not until the breakfast hour that some of the doctors and nurses could take any rest. The orderlies on transport duty at the railway station—most of them had not been off duty since the preceding night—were severely tried but carried on unflinchingly, and recommenced duty on the morning of Saturday, 11th September, at the usual hour. It was a very creditable piece of work on the part of the whole staff, and they were duly thanked for the zeal and efficiency displayed.

Early on the morning of 11th September, I was notified of a fourth convoy, and discovered that it was on its way. I was at my wits end to know what to do. The staff was hardly in a fit state to deal with it properly, and I had only another 100 or so beds left, my numbers having increased to nearly 1900 all told. However, by the energetic use of long distance wires, and the assistance of the railway authorities, I managed to deflect it to London, much to my relief. Then began our knowledge of the Australian soldier. It can be imagined what their feelings were on waking the morning after admission. They had spent weeks on the

Peninsula under conditions of warfare which could only fittingly be described as "hellish" ; then a long and stormy ocean journey, during which bread, such as it was, went short ; followed by a hurried night journey to an unknown place ; and after a hearty meal and long sleep, to wake up in a bright and airy ward with an outlook on to a fine park, and to feel that they were in the "Motherland" they had heard so much of, but never seen before ; it is not surprising that their gratitude and enthusiasm were unbounded. Their chief delight, however, was in the beautiful white (at this time) home-made bread. Other food did not matter ; it was only the bread they wanted ; they begged, borrowed and stole it, filled their pockets with it, and ate it all day long. It threatened to run short, but the bakery was equal to the demand.

The same evening there was a big concert in the recreation hall. It was a touching sight to see the effect of the singing of the National songs and popular ballads on those rugged warriors—broken in body, but not in spirit. The hall, which will seat 1200, was packed, and the choruses gloriously sung ; the noise and coo-eeing in the intervals shook the place, and I'm sure it did them as much good as it did me, for one, to hear it. The next day, being Sunday, they came to Church, where many of them were not quite so much at home as in the hall on the previous night. However, their behaviour was irreproachable and they were obviously impressed.

O.C.'s Impressions of the Australian Soldier.—It is convenient here to summarise my impressions of the Australian soldier, especially of the earlier ones to arrive. Most of them were dark, very weather beaten and sun dried, loosely built but powerful men, with sharp features and clean-shaven faces, revealing striking physiognomies. When spoken to individually they replied as men of independence, and often in a curiously silky tone. They were obviously cautious and with no intention of being "had" in any way. The large proportion of them were good fellows when properly treated, but there was a small percentage quite incorrigible and created the opinion among some people that Australian soldiers, as a body, were a bad lot. This certainly was not so. Quite the contrary was the truth. There did not

appear to be any nondescripts ; apparently in Australia they have no use for them ; a man is right on the line and a decent chap, or something to be avoided. I was proud of the relationship thus commenced of the hospital to Australia, which was to be very close, as I will now relate.

Proposed Reservation for Australian Patients.—By September, 1915, the accommodation at Harefield Hospital, provided by the Commonwealth Authorities, proved insufficient, so arrangements were made with the War Office for 1,000 beds to be allotted to Australian patients in or near London. Our share was 500 beds. Medical officers and nursing staff were to be detailed for duty to take charge of them (121/Medical/925 (A.M.D. 2), 3rd September, 1915).

The first I heard of it was when Lieut.-Colonel W. Perrin Norris, A.A.M.C., Chief Medical Officer from the Australian High Commissioner's Office, came to see me on 6th September, 1915. He produced the War Office letter referred to. I was placed rather in a predicament. Unquestionably the War Office had the right to allot us any kind of military patients they thought fit, but, acting for them, we had already committed ourselves as regards nursing staff, and, furthermore, I was unhappy at the prospect of at least a quarter of the hospital being separated from the general administration. It meant a division of the hospital, and a distinction between patients which promised general trouble. I was prepared to welcome any kind of soldier, secure him the best treatment, and make him happy and comfortable, and to do it without disturbing our own staff and running a section of the hospital specially for him. I had grave doubts about the practicability of the proposed arrangements and so told Colonel Norris very plainly what I thought.

The result was a conference at Headquarters, Eastern Command, on 9th September, with the Australian Medical Authorities, when I suggested a working arrangement which, after considerable discussion, was considered satisfactory and received approval.

Final Arrangements for Australian Patients.—It was agreed that Australians should be accommodated in wards suitable to their physical state and treated the same as other patients. Subject to the convenience of the general ad-

ministration, certain wards would be selected which would be mainly Australian, but not necessarily wholly so. I had already pointed out that, with nearly 1,500 surgical beds, an additional chief resident surgeon would be required, and I agreed that the Australian authorities should make the nomination, the officer to be a Major and thoroughly competent to deal with any surgical emergency. He would take charge of all patients in his division whether British or colonial. I was experiencing at the time some difficulty in obtaining suitable resident medical officers, the R.A.M.C. having claimed all those who might otherwise have been available. It was therefore convenient, and in fact desirable, to accept the offer of four Australian commissioned medical officers who would do duty generally in the hospital. Finally, as vacancies occurred in the nursing staff, the Australian Principal Matron in England would post Australian nurses until required elsewhere.

As it happened, before these negotiations were completed, the 500 beds were more than absorbed by Australian admissions, and by 17th September no less than 700 Commonwealth troops were under treatment.

Visit of Australian Headquarters Medical Staff and Others.—Prior to the posting of the Australian doctors, I saw a good deal of Lieut.-Colonel Perrin Norris, Lieut.-Colonel J. F. Flashman, Commandant, Australian Auxiliary Hospitals, and other Commonwealth officials, both military and civil. On 30th September, I received a telephonic communication from Australian Headquarters that some Australian medical officers were on their way to see me. Late in the afternoon there was a loud rap at my office door, and on my exclaiming, "Come in," there entered a procession of tall, great-coated officers, until my office could contain no more, especially of the dimensions of all of my visitors save one. There were a dozen or so of them, mainly Colonels or Majors, A.A.M.C. Colonel J. F. Flashman was in charge of the party, and my office never held such a fine lot of men either before or since. I was delighted to see them. Some were Headquarters' staff ; others had recently arrived to take charge of Australian hospitals, etc., it was proposed to establish. I told them all about the hospital and afterwards showed them the administration

and some of the wards. Their appreciation of all they saw and heard was unbounded, and they then and there expressed a wish to take over the whole hospital for Australians. They had the supreme confidence of men used to obtaining what they asked for, and when they left I was not at all certain as to what the future of the hospital might be. However, I reckoned that the L.C.C. would have something to say in the matter, and derived some comfort from this thought.

Australian Staff Arrive.—On 5th October, the Australian medical staff arrived, and after one or two minor changes the following officers settled down here comfortably for some months (C.R.E.C. 2/65546 (M) 24th Sept., 1915):—

Major W. Chisholm, M.D. (Lond.), A.A.M.C., Consulting Surgeon, Sydney Hospital.

Capt. A. G. Owen, M.D. (Melb.), A.A.M.C.

„ J. H. McGee, M.D. (R.U.I.), A.A.M.C.

„ M. G. Sutton, M.B. (Syd.), A.A.M.C.

„ P. M. McMasters, M.B. (Syd.), A.A.M.C.

The Australian Red Cross and War Contingent Association commenced to send generous supplies of comforts of a kind most likely to be appreciated by men from the Commonwealth. These were distributed through the Almoner's office, and full facilities were afforded the Australian Headquarters' staff, representatives of the High Commissioner, and others interested in Australian affairs generally, for keeping in close touch with the Australian patients.

Australia and the Australians.—There was no question as to the mutual love and loyalty between the Australian soldiers and Australia, so much so that both were almost jealous of any outside interference. That Australia was a nation was patent to all, the Throne seemed the only connecting link with the mother country. Australia did not mind what she spent on the Australian patients, and no colonial government took more fatherly care of its gallant sons.

However, it is to our credit that we made the Australians very comfortable and contented, in that they were always loath to leave us, and many of them never omitted to visit the hospital, often repeatedly, whenever possible,

while in this country. We made many friends among them and I saw a good deal of Commonwealth officials, medical officers from Australian hospitals, and Australian citizens generally.

Zeppelin Raids.—Zeppelin raids were troublesome during the second week in September, 1915, and always a source of considerable anxiety. Most of the soldiers slept through them quite soundly, but it was not good for the neurasthenics. I feel sure it kept alive feelings of nervous anxiety, but there was nothing to be done, for no part of England was safe from raids. Arrangements were so made that I was notified by the police, before anyone else, when a warning was given. Fortunately, the hospital was only a two-storied building, and surmounted by a heavy fire-proof ceiling which would offer considerable resistance to pieces of broken shell, although not likely to resist a bomb, it afforded some protection. The hospital was darkened and the fire brigade went at once to the fire station and remained there until all danger was over. I invariably came on duty and never had the joy of sleeping through one, though often strongly tempted to. Later, the aeroplane raids were much more formidable, but at this time had not developed.

In collaboration with the police I made arrangements to come to the assistance of the civilian population in case of any destruction and casualties occurring in the neighbourhood. The medical staff, nurses, and transport were made available, and I had a scheme ready to put into instant operation should it become necessary to admit civilian patients.

Gun-fire in France Heard.—I might mention here that the gun-fire in France was readily heard in Epsom, much more plainly than in London, and at times seemed quite near. I suppose the sound was carried along the undulating downs which spread from here to the coast, and the proximity of the high lands in the neighbourhood of Box Hill may also have had something to do with it. In no way could the real, big, live fact that we were at war be forgotten for a moment.

Visit of Mr. Burns.—The Right Honourable John Burns came to see me on 24th September, 1915. He was an old

visitor to the hospital, and I always enjoyed a talk with him. Though his views on many subjects, especially as regards this war, did not find ready acceptance, yet he is always illuminating and stimulating and makes his presence felt wherever he goes. Being very busy I had to hand him over to the officers' mess for entertainment, and, when I entered the mess room at tea time, a very vigorous argument on imperial subjects was at its height. In our officers—one from South Africa and another from Canada—he unsuspectingly ran up against some opponents worthy of his mettle. I rescued him from them and took him round. He was delighted with all he saw, and, despite his well known views, he was fully alive to the country's welfare and not neglectful of any good work in the interest of the soldiers and their families. The officers afterwards invited him to dinner and a very pleasant evening was spent, and they parted with mutual good-will and respect.

Death of Lieut. E. Faulks.—On Sunday, 10th October, 1915, I motored to Bexley Asylum and attended a memorial service to Lieut. E. Faulks, R.A.M.C., Senior Assistant Medical Officer. This officer had only quite recently been spared for military service, and had, earlier in the year, paid me a visit and offered all his spare time to the hospital. I knew Edgar Faulks almost as a brother at Bexley, and his sudden end was a great shock to me. He was only out in France a little over a fortnight, when, on 26th September, 1915, whilst attending a wounded gunner on the battlefield in the neighbourhood of Loos, he was struck in the chest and died almost immediately. He was buried close to the spot where he fell. He was a masterful man of iron nerve and a loyal friend, and we were the losers save for his example. Sacrifices such as his are the foundations upon which our dearly bought freedom rest, and the superstructure will surely not be unworthy when completed.

Provision for Soldiers Leaving Hospital for Exercise.—It was natural that soldiers returning from the front, when able to get about, should desire to explore the neighbourhood and partake of the social life and amusements outside. The great danger was that John Barleycorn would prove more attractive than healthy country exercise, or the hospitality so generously offered them by the inhabitants of

Epsom and surrounding hamlets. A fact also not to be lost sight of was the possibility of further incapacity resulting from association with undesirables, who, unfortunately, very soon pay visits to districts where soldiers are to be found in large numbers. Strictly speaking, no leave of absence could be given patients, while in hospital, unless for some very urgent and verified reason, though no doubt it was permissible for soldiers to go out for walks if in the charge of an orderly or some other responsible person, but not a nurse. Officially it was thought that exercise in the hospital grounds, if extensive enough, was all that was ordinarily necessary.

With a busy little town near-by, and no means whereby patients could be restricted to the hospital and grounds, except moral persuasion, it was obvious that a large number would succumb to the temptation to jump the easily climbable fence, which was the sole obstacle to freedom. The staff was almost entirely female, doors everywhere were unlocked until dusk, the wards and surrounding gardens being almost one as far as nursing was concerned. It was impossible to even attempt to issue A.F.B. 295 (known as a blue pass) daily to every soldier who was fit to take country walks, neither did I think it desirable that these passes should be used, except for occasional purposes when definite leave of absence was permissible. I also thought it a good thing to clear the hospital, if possible, in the afternoons, so the difficulty was very largely overcome in the following manner.

Special O.C. Passes Issued.—I had printed and issued a small red pass, placing "within bounds," from 2 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., an area within a three-mile limit from the hospital, excepting neighbouring hospitals, camps, and railway stations. Standing Orders to this effect were reproduced on the pass together with the conditions under which the pass could be issued and retained. The local civil and military police were informed, and requested to consider any soldier without this permit as absent "without leave." On all other occasions A.F.B. 295 was necessary to escape arrest and disciplinary measures. The issue of the red pass was subject to the medical officer's approval and its retention to the soldier's good conduct. This subject will crop up

again later on, but I may mention here that I thought it my duty in October, 1915, to further ventilate this matter with the Army Authorities, in an application I made for the mounted military police at Woodcote to include the neighbourhood of Horton in their daily tour, as a deterrent to patients indulging in the unseemly practice of jumping the fence instead of using the gate when leaving hospital. The application was refused owing to shortage of men doing police duty.

Tea Room.—The tea room, thanks to Mrs. Stanyforth, was well under way early in the summer and very largely patronised. It was a pleasant and cheerful resort and very much appreciated by the soldiers and their visitors. I was unable to leave hospital, except on rare occasions, during these busy days, and the short time I could spare from duty in the afternoons was often spent in the tea room, where I considered myself—as indeed I was—an ordinary visitor. They are happy recollections now, perhaps the happiest I have of the hospital during the war.

Gifts of a Waggonette and Harness.—It is convenient now to mention some further gifts to the hospital. In August the tea room ladies from Wallington, especially, were much indebted to Mr. W. C. Jackson, Woodcote End House, Epsom, for the waggonette and harness which he gave to the hospital. The farm loaned a cob, and I was thus able to convey these voluntary helpers to and from the station, which saved time and the fatigue of walking.

Gift of Venison from King and Queen.—Early in October there arrived at the hospital four haunches of venison, shot on 27th September, the gift of the King and Queen. Venison was a new experience to most of the patients. They greatly appreciated the royal kindness and consideration, but it was not to be expected that all would like venison. I was quite interested to know the result from a catering point of view, but immediately it became known that it was a gift from the King and Queen I was baulked. It made all the difference; it was all eaten up and enjoyed, and many a man will relate with pride that he had partaken of the King's venison.

Special Playing Cards.—The Master of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards presented to the hospital sixty packs of playing cards, specially made and suitably inscribed. They were very artistically done, and the Treasury Authorities had allowed them to be distributed free of duty for the use of the patients only.

Director-General of Voluntary Agencies.—Sir Edward W. D. Ward, K.C.B., Bart., had become the Director-General of Voluntary Organisations, with Headquarters at Scotland Yard, S.W. We were now able to indent upon him for splints, crutches, bandages, operation swabs, etc., made by the numerous war supply depôts which were being organised throughout the country. To save time and correspondence, this was not allowed to affect the local war depôts who were in daily touch with the hospital and its requirements.

More Distinguished Visitors.—During the autumn of 1915 we had many distinguished visitors. On 29th October, Sir Cyril Jackson, K.B.E., the Chairman of the London County Council, spent a morning at the hospital. His visit coincided with that of the fine Band of the East Surrey Regiment, and he was greatly impressed with the busy scene in the recreation hall. It was full of soldier patients in all stages of convalescence, and the lady almoners were busy distributing comforts. The band played magnificently, and never I venture to think in a room with finer acoustic properties.

The next day I had the pleasure of showing round the hospital Sir John Watney and Miss Mary Denby, the latter a Commissioner of the Board of Control. They were very satisfied with all they saw and delighted with the cheerful, but nevertheless business-like and orderly air of the hospital.

On 5th September, Lieut-General Sir W. L. Gubbins, K.C.B., late Director-General Army Medical Services, a member of the Executive Committee of the British Red Cross Society and a Commissioner of Chelsea, visited the hospital.

Visit of Director-General, A.A.M.S.—On 5th November, Colonel R. H. J. Featherstone, Director-General, Australian Army Medical Service, and Colonel Perrin Norris, inspected

the hospital and went away well content with the care we were taking of the Australians. I must say the latter patients spoke unhesitatingly very highly of their comfort and treatment, which was very gratifying to us.

Visit of Sir W. Job Collins.—On the same day I was also delighted to see Sir W. Job Collins, K.C.V.O., who was on the consulting staff of the hospital. His long association with the London County Council made him keenly interested in the success of the hospital, and, though his many public engagements rendered it impossible for him to take on active medical work, I knew I could rely upon his whole-hearted assistance if I got into difficulties.

Laundry.—On 29th October, Miss M. W. Gibson, from the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, took up her duties as Superintendent of the laundry. To give some idea of the work in the laundry at this time, the figures for the week's wash were:—

No. of patients	Patients' articles	Kits from overseas	Staff articles	Total.
1,552	22,257	762	10,975	33,994

It seemed likely that when the hospital became full there would be full scope for Miss Gibson's activities.

Enlistment of Staff.—Up to now, pending the consolidation of the administration and the acquisition of experience by the new staff, many of whom, especially the women, were employed on work they were not accustomed to, the hospital had retained a fair proportion of the depleted permanent male staff. In November, however, the Sub-Committee were of the opinion that permission should be given for those men to enlist whose services were not absolutely essential to the safe and proper working of the hospital. Accordingly, on 13th November, I was able to notify them that, if of 40 years of age and under, and single, they had permission at once to enlist in the army, and if married, to enlist and join the Reserve under the Lord Derby Scheme, and join the colours as they could be spared.

Survivors of the "Anglia" admitted.—The night of 17th November, 1915, will never be forgotten, for it was the occasion of the admission of 112 soldiers and two sailors,

survivors of the hospital ship *Anglia*, which had been mined and sunk in the Channel. A cabin boy, from the collier *Lusitania*, was also admitted, his ship having been sunk while engaged in noble rescue work. The disaster took place about mid-day, and shortly after 8 p.m. I had the worst of the survivors safe in the wards. All, more or less, were suffering severely from immersion in the sea, and many were severely wounded. Their condition on arrival was most pitiable. I had a huge pile of blankets waiting at the station, in which the patients were at once wrapped, and the journey to the hospital was made in record time. On arrival there every means were taken thoroughly to restore life, many being dazed and others partly or completely unconscious. They had gone through a terrible experience; some had been twice immersed, and had lost all they possessed; some even lost their pyjamas and were admitted quite naked but for blankets. Two of them it was impossible to identify, one of whom died very soon without ever returning to consciousness or uttering a word. It was not until the day fixed for the funeral that, with the assistance of the War Office Casualty Department, and the ring the patient was wearing, I was able to surmise who he was. I postponed the funeral for a day, and sent for the relatives, who satisfactorily identified him just before he was buried. The other "unknown" was suffering from a fractured skull, and in his delirium uttered words which belonged to no language we were acquainted with. I suspected paraphasia, but on the night of admission it was rumoured he was a German from his appearance and language, and some ugly threats were heard from other patients in the ward, who were highly incensed at the whole affair, especially as the survivors were convinced that the ship had been torpedoed. The story was that the *Anglia* had been dodged by a strange foreign-looking vessel, which had done the dastardly deed, and that the "unknown" speaking the foreign language had fallen overboard and been rescued with those from the *Anglia*. It was known there were no German prisoners on board the *Anglia*. However, though the story was scarcely credible, I wished to avoid any trouble with the other patients, so I had the patient moved to a wing of "A" hospital, and put in safety under an armed guard from a neighbouring camp for a few days, and set

about the work of identification. It took some days, and several missing soldiers' relatives were sent for without success. At last, however, the right relatives were found and he was correctly identified. We had good ground for our mystification regarding his language, for he was a paraphasic Welshman trying to speak his native tongue. He never regained consciousness, in spite of every effort to repair his skull, and died on December 7th.

Message from the King.—On the morning following the arrival of the survivors of the *Anglia*, I received by telephone the following gracious message from H.M. the King, which I read to the patients congregated in the recreation hall and published in a special order :—

"His Majesty the King desires that a special message of sympathy be conveyed to all *Anglia* patients, and has expressed the hope that they may quickly recover from their trying experience."

Lady St. Helier's "Anglia" Relief Fund.—Lady St. Helier made an appeal in the Press for funds to relieve the more urgent necessities of these men on discharge, and succeeded in raising £364, from which grants were made to all the survivors in this hospital and elsewhere. She was ably assisted by the Press, to whom she was very grateful, the *Anglia* patients much appreciating the visits of its many representatives, including, among others, those of the "Daily Telegraph," "Daily Mail," "London Illustrated News," "Illustrated News Agency," "Daily Mirror" and "Daily Sketch."

Harvest Festivals.—On Sunday, 8th October, the Harvest Festival was held in the Church and was well attended. The structure lends itself to decorative effect and display, and on these occasions presents a sight not easily forgotten. The farm and garden contributed masses of flowers, large quantities of fruit, vegetables, etc., also plenty of wheat and corn, and the bake-house several loaves of gigantic dimensions. It was "some" harvest festival to the soldiers. They continued to be held annually throughout the war. Later, when food became rather short, some of the staff and patients were rather caustic in their remarks on these occasions, but I pointed out that the less we got the more

thankful we should be that we had any at all under the circumstances. More food than was absolutely necessary meant less munitions, fewer bayonets, a longer war, and greater suffering in the long run.

Organ Recitals and Sacred Concerts.—On 14th November there commenced, on Sunday afternoons, a series of organ recitals in the Church, associated with sacred concerts, arranged by Mr. Taylor, the Choirmaster and Organist. A number of the patients, especially some of the Australians, were very fond of serious music, and we were much obliged to several eminent organists and singers, also the choirs of neighbouring churches, for many enjoyable Sunday afternoons spent in this fashion.

Exhibition Billiards by the Pealls.—An event of considerable interest to the patients occurred on 24th November. Mr. W. J. Peall (spot stroke champion), and his son, Mr. Arthur Peall, gave a billiard exhibition in the recreation hall. As previously related, the three full-sized asylum billiard tables had been transferred from the wards to the recreation hall, which became a really magnificent billiard saloon. I ought also to mention that, in addition, a fine billiard table had been generously presented to the hospital by Mr. W. H. Moore, of Epsom. They were seldom out of use, except during concerts and entertainments. On this occasion arrangements were made that as many as possible should view the game, which was enjoyed immensely. A game of 700 up resulted in the younger Peall winning. Both the Pealls were delighted to come, and expressed themselves very pleased with the reception they got.

Concerts, Entertainments, etc.—As stated before, scarcely a day passed without a concert or some sort of entertainment being held in the recreation hall. It is impossible to mention them all, but many were really of a very high order, and the soldier had no need to leave the hospital to enjoy some of the best talent the country could provide. Among those who gave fine performances were: The Aldwych Quartette (London County Council Musical Society), the Three Arts' Club, the pupils of Miss Ede's School, the London School of Opera, the London and South-

Western Railway Musical Society, three short plays by Mr. A. Bouchier, the "Evening News" Concert Party, and several special soldiers' entertainment parties, such as the War Emergency Party. In addition, concerts were given by the nursing staff and by parties of patients, and, until it was dissolved on the men being enlisted, the Asylum Orchestra. Lady Mountain, Mrs. Coleman and Mrs. Mappin should also be mentioned in this respect.

Saluting Officers, Reasons for.—A good deal of conversation arose about this time regarding the saluting of officers by soldiers, especially hospital patients, and it was not uncommonly referred to in the "chatty" columns of the less responsible press. Much of it was due to ignorance of the facts and false sentiment, and quite uncalled for. A soldier, even if only a temporary one, should play the game properly, and no good soldier ever cavils at his duty in this respect. He knows quite well that it is not the individual he salutes, but the King's Commission. In a free land like England it is our pride that the military forces are the servants of the civilian powers, and the soldier cannot be too often reminded that he exists as such, not by any right, but by permission of the King, as chief citizen of the nation. No responsible citizen can afford to jeer at this duty, which is part and parcel of the rule and discipline by which the army is kept under control, a relaxation of which would not be in the interest of the citizens.

Convalescent Soldiers not Exempt from Saluting Officers.—Unfortunately, the story got about that convalescent soldiers need not salute officers, and it was necessary to tell the patients that this was not so. I posted and circulated a letter from the G.O.C.-in-Chief, Eastern Command, dated 25th November, 1915, on this subject. The matter is clinched in the following paragraph:—

"It must be borne in mind that the interchange of salutes, which should be punctiliously performed by the officer returning it as by the soldier giving it, is an acknowledgment of the King's Commission, and as such cannot be too strictly observed on all occasions."

We never had any trouble here in this respect.

Christmas and New Year.—The approach of Christmas time was heralded by a crop of applications from the patients to spend at least Christmas Day at home. It was perfectly natural under the circumstances, especially in the case of the married soldiers, and awakened all my sympathy. I put the matter forward to Headquarters, but, for reasons I could not help feeling were quite reasonable, special leave for this purpose could not be given. However, I managed that those soldiers who had not been home since the war commenced, and whose homes did not involve a long journey, should spend a day at home some time during the Christmas and New Year festivities. The patients, though disappointed, were well content with this, and set about making preparation to spend here as enjoyable a Christmas as possible. I confess their enthusiasm made me a little nervous as to the outcome, especially as I had a large number of colonial patients, whose fashion of spending Christmas time was a matter of uncertainty, and possibly somewhat unconventional.

A collection box made its appearance in each ward, inviting subscriptions in aid of the festivities, and an elaborate system of small fines was instituted by the patients involving themselves and the staff. The result of the latter was an immense success, all being done with perfect good nature and caused endless amusement. Anything approaching an expulsive, even under the greatest provocation, became an expensive affair; while the nurse had to be an exceedingly good timekeeper if she desired to avoid a deputation of merry soldiers with the bottomless box.

The long looked forward to day came at last, and here is a copy of my orders for the day:—



ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY, 1915.

By Lieut.-Colonel J. R. LORD, M.B., R.A.M.C.,
Officer Commanding, County of London War Hospital, Epsom.

- No. 1. 11 a.m., Christmas Service in church.
- " 2. Medical treatment as usual.
- " 3. 1 p.m., Christmas dinner.

No. 4. 4.15 p.m., the Lady Almoner has asked me to circulate the following request :—

“The Lady Visitors to the wards kindly propose to give every soldier a small present on Christmas Day. The Lady Almoner hopes that every soldier will make a point of being in his ward at 4.15 p.m. that they may meet the Lady Visitors, who will personally hand them the gifts so kindly provided.”

I hope N.C.O's and men will comply with the Lady Almoner's wishes.

„ 5. 4.30 p.m., tea.

„ 6. After tea the evening will be devoted to Christmas games and amusements. Soldiers will be permitted to visit generally their comrades in other wards; a like privilege is being extended to the staff.

Throughout the day all concerned must have due regard for those who are acutely sick and suffering, when in their vicinity.

„ 7. Bed and lights out as usual.

The wards had gradually assumed the aspect of a veritable fairy-land, and prominent in each was a Christmas tree. The decorations were most tasteful, and the colour schemes carefully worked out to suit the wards. Many weeks had been spent in making artificial flowers, at which art the permanent staff excelled. The wards vied with each other, making their rooms as pretty and as Christmas-like as possible, and the result surpassed all expectations. Visitors were amazed, and many tributes of praise were paid to the nurses and patients for the fine effects produced. I cannot do better than quote two paragraphs from “The Hospital,” which appeared on 1st January, 1916:—

“Another ward presents a delightful scene, with windows adorned with evergreens, electric globes decorated with holly, and mantel-shelves arrayed with imitation roses, clematis, almond blossom and tulips. The clematis is especially worthy of praise. There is a huge snow-pie (made with wool), containing presents for patients, and draped with the Union Jack, and the Christmas tree has not been forgotten. Then, as we leave, we find the corridor arrayed with bunting and evergreens, and on a window, humorous in its crudeness, is the greeting, ‘Ome, sweet Ome.’ One ward has a strikingly pretty floral painted dado around the walls, and around the windows are arrayed flags of all nations, and there are garlands of evergreens and holly.



Education Department

“B” Hospital. (Page 7)



Education Department

Christmas in Hospital. (Page 60)

"One ward in particular has a very significant and novel feature in having draped the pillars with muslin in patriotic colours of the Allies, which are really worthy of praise. Affixed to the Australian pillar are the national emblems, the Emu and the Kangaroo. At the same time this ward has not concentrated its main efforts on the pillars, because the whole room is decked with evergreen chains, with holly garlands round windows and doors. And there are hanging baskets of various colours containing pretty evergreens, and across the ward, on a muslin band, are engrossed the greetings of the season."

The following is an extract of the account given in the same number of "The Hospital" as to how Christmas was spent here :—

"On Christmas Eve a most successful concert was given in the large theatre (which will seat 2,000), by the Lady Almoner (Right Hon. Lady St. Helier). Mr. Robinson and other entertainers delighted for nearly two hours those who were well enough to be present. Outside the hospital the church choirs from the neighbourhood sang carols to those gallant comrades too ill to be otherwise than in bed. Christmas morning the fun commenced. Quite early, Christmas hymns could be heard, and soon bands of the more convalescent Tommies, in fancy dress costumes, were conveying greetings everywhere, chiefly in song, accompanied by such musical instruments as are commonly found in Christmas stockings. Each soldier found in his locker a Christmas card specially designed and printed by the hospital. At 11 a.m. those so inclined went to church, and quite a large number of both staff and patients attended early communion.

"After the medical visit and inspection the day was given over to seasonable amusements of a real old-fashioned Christmas character. Christmas dinner consisted of beef, pork (and apple sauce), plum pudding, dessert, etc., and was a great success.

"The Officer Commanding had relaxed the standing order against inter-ward visiting, and soon parties of patients and staff were interchanging happy greetings. At 4.15, a representative of the Lady Almoner gave out the presents provided by her department and Colonial authorities, Christmas trees were dismantled, and after tea song and games became universal, except in the vicinity of those very ill. The tea was a great function. Each ward had a large decorated Christmas cake and a good supply of Christmas crackers, and in most wards a specially arranged programme of music was carried out.

"The Officer Commanding (Lieut.-Colonel J. R. Lord), paid a visit to every ward and spoke to all those in bed. The London County Council was represented by the chairman of the hospital, Mr. H. J. Greenwood.

"At present there are a large number of Australian, New Zealand and Canadian patients in the hospital, who passed a really happy day—one they will always remember, and carry the recollection of their first Christmas in England to those distant lands they are so proud of. They were made to feel thoroughly at home, and did not hesitate to say so."

The asylum had a large and varied stock of fancy costumes, used by the mental patients at the fancy dress balls. By some oversight these were made available for the soldier patients, and the first I knew of it was about noon on Christmas Day, when I met outside my office a very cheerful and wonderfully dressed crowd representing both sexes. Some of the dresses were obviously the soldiers' own production, in which they displayed their well known ingenuity when in difficulties. They were never used again, except in very special instances, and only with my expressed permission.

The number of patients in hospital on Christmas Day was 1,560, a fair proportion being Australians. The cook and general kitchen emerged triumphant from the ordeal they were put to.

Some time during the fourteen days following Christmas each ward had a special Christmas party, which usually took the form of a whist drive, when the patients were allowed to sit up until 10 p.m. I attended several and thoroughly enjoyed myself.

The New Year is Greeted.—I was given to understand that in Australia New Year's Day very largely took the place of the English Christmas, so I was half expecting some special celebrations by the Australian patients when that arrived, but was not prepared for what happened on New Year's Eve. Such patients as were fit and desired to do so were given permission to sit up in the ward and see the New Year in, but most of them retired to bed. I sat in my house, waiting sleepily for the stroke of twelve before turning in, when on the first chime of midnight I was roused with cheers, shouts, singing, banging of doors, and other evidences of commotion in the hospital, very startling in the stillness of the night. At first I was at a loss to know what was happening, and then I remembered our Australian guests. Upon enquiry I heard that they had been strangely

quiet during the evening, but, on the immediate approach of the incoming year, they rose as one man and greeted it with an enthusiasm truly alarming, because it was quite unexpected. However, after some persuasion and exhortation by the medical staff, especially by a plucky little doctor on our permanent staff, Dr. Foster, they settled down again, and the rest of the New Year's time was spent quietly enough to satisfy the most punctilious.

The Year, 1915.—The eventful year of 1915 was now ended, and the hospital could be considered as completely established. There had been admitted 5,879 patients, of whom only 31 had died, and I was quite content that we were carrying out the wishes of Sir Alfred Keogh, as expressed to me on 10th March, 1915. Mr. Greenwood, the Chairman, was very happy about the acknowledged success of the hospital, and he was in a position to know from his wide acquaintance with everybody and everything; while I felt that Colonel Simpson was thoroughly satisfied; and the Lady Almoner had raised over £2,000 for the soldiers' comforts.

List of Prominent Contributions to the Almoner's Fund.—I might mention here that H.M. the Queen had contributed £25; Lloyds, per Mr. Evans, over £300; Lord Ashton, Mrs. Coleman, and the Hong Kong Charities, £100 each; C. Bersey, Esq., and the Fishmongers' Company, 50 guineas each; and Ceylon, per Spencer Wallis & Co., Viscount Cowdray, the City of London, Lord Rosebery, and Sir R. Mountain, £50 each.

I was thankful for many mercies, both small and great, and looked forward to 1916 with confidence.

I cannot do better than conclude with an abstract from my Christmas Greetings to the patients:—

ENGLAND'S GREETING.

"'England expects,' you know the line,
What British heart does not?
Nor till the Sun forgets to shine
Shall Nelson's signal, half divine,
By Britons be forgot.

" 'England expects'—My distant sons
 Across the echoing sea,
 Have heard the call, have heard the guns,
 The hate-shriek of the murdering Huns,
 And mustered home to me.

"You, lads of Mine, home-born or bred
 Beneath a distant Sun,
 Not scatheless in my cause have sped,
 But not in vain has England said
 She still expects! Well done!"

R. H. C.

III

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE HOSPITAL, 1916-18—*Continued*

WHEN I reached about the middle of the preceding chapter, I had to break off in order to write the sections dealing with the work of the special departments. I found so much to relate in them that I must perforce considerably shorten the chapters dealing with the general history of the hospital. Of the year 1915 I wrote rather fully, because much of it was occupied in establishing and consolidating the administration of the hospital.

When 1916 opened we could consider ourselves in all respects a completed central hospital, running satisfactorily, and experienced in dealing with all kinds of military patients, except officers, and ready to meet any work the future had in store for us. It will not be necessary in this chapter to do more than describe such events of interest not dealt with in the reports of the different sections of the hospital, though 1919—the year which saw the closing of the hospital—will need to be dealt with more fully.

Accommodation.—One of the earliest matters I had to give close attention to, in 1916, was the question of utilising to the uttermost the possibilities of the hospital as regards accommodation.

The Army Council were pressing for more hospital accommodation, and were of the opinion that a satisfactory number of beds had not yet been reached, and a War Office letter was issued to that effect (No. 16/3448 (Q.M.G.I.), 16th February, 1916). It is rather a misfortune that it is necessary to complete hospital buildings before the beds are placed in position. If it were possible, the ideal would be to arrange the beds first and erect the building accordingly. Whatever standard of bed space is taken, whether cubic, floor, or wall space, it is never an easy matter to comply with it quite accurately; so much depends upon the position

of doors, windows, fireplaces, and the general shape of the room. It is essential that every bed should have reasonable cubic space and at the same time not be too near each other; and these are the only guides of practical value. As regards the rooms which were designed as dormitories there was no real difficulty, but a number of day rooms and galleries had to be taken into use as dormitories, and these occasioned considerable difficulty. Many of the latter rooms were large and square, with bay windows, and had two to four entrances. If the wall standard of six feet for each bed were taken there was a great waste of floor space; if floor space were taken the beds were too close together to be comfortable, and if cubic space were the standard many of the beds found themselves in impossible positions. Nobody is more alive to these facts than the Medical Superintendent of an asylum.

I have already, on page 10, described how the normal accommodation of 2,040 beds was arrived at, and how in emergencies it could be raised to 2,412.

In the War Office letter referred to I was asked how many more beds, by which was meant "beds for cases from overseas," I could provide, by allowing sixty feet floor space subject to six feet wall space for each patient. Granted that the six feet wall space were forthcoming, 2,040 became 2,990, and if one had to do the same with the rooms allotted to convalescent beds, the total accommodation would become almost 3,200. Add to this 182 purely emergency beds in corridors, etc., and I had to contemplate a hospital housing perhaps 3,380 patients. The matter was very serious, for the War Office, quite justifiably, had been led to believe that an asylum for 2,000 patients would provide one-third more beds for sick and wounded soldiers, roughly 2,700. Accordingly, I was nearly 700 beds short. However, I have already explained how this came about. I again made a careful survey of the hospital, being anxious that every possible use should be made of the buildings the War Office had taken over. I knew, as regards cubic space per bed, I had plenty of margin over the sixty square feet per bed, now the standard. I found I could do but little; the doors, fireplaces, necessary spaces in front of sanitary annexes, serving hatches, and lack of wall space defeated me; so I could recommend little or no change.

On 8th April, 1916, the Board of Control took the matter up, and on 18th April gave me an interview on the subject. There was an additional proposition that a very grave emergency might be met by placing 500 "shakedown beds" in corridors, visiting rooms, recreation hall, etc., to be utilised, say, for two or three weeks until the position cleared. The latter proposition was rather awful to contemplate, and I trusted that such a state of affairs would never arise so as to render it necessary. I had already met it somewhat by arranging 182 extra emergency beds. However, I knew I should never turn cases away. I felt I could rely upon the considerable number of voluntary helpers in the tea room, from Epsom and Wallington, giving me all their time in such an eventuality.

As regards increasing at all materially the number of permanent beds, there were insurmountable difficulties. The beds would need to be placed in a position inconvenient to both patient and nurse; the general kitchen, already cooking for over 2,700 people (including staff), had as much as it could do continuously; further accommodation for nurses was impossible without additional buildings; the gas and water supply, sewage disposal, and other engineering details were reported by the Engineer as being strained to their uttermost.

Early in May, 1916, the whole matter was reviewed by Colonel Simpson, who visited, and went into all my difficulties, and a scheme was prepared according to which the total accommodation was to be increased to 2,532 beds, except during winter, by adding five hospital marquees, equipping verandahs and kiosks, and squeezing in an extra bed here and there. In winter, of course, the outdoor accommodation would be lost, but this would only be for three months, and in actual practice most of it was used all the year round. However, the position generally as regards accommodation had so much improved by the end of May that all action meantime was suspended, although not for long. A telegram on 16th July, 1916, set it all in motion again, and the matter was carried through as decided upon early in May. September of that year saw 2,389 patients in residence, and, during 1917 and 1918, it frequently reached over 2,500, being highest on 4th April, 1918, on which day there were 2,507 officers and men resident.

Staff Exemptions from Military Service.—Among the many incidents connected with the hospital, few were more trying to the Sub-Committee and its officers than the transactions with recruiting authorities and local tribunals regarding exemptions for those of the permanent male staff who were indispensable to the safety and sound administration of the hospital. We had set a good example in dispensing with the services of male staff as much as possible, and, as time went on and opportunity occurred, we were determined to continue in the course thus mapped out.

Although, in the long run, we obtained all we could reasonably wish for, yet considerable worry and anxiety was occasioned by a procedure which seemed quite unnecessary in the case of a war hospital to secure the object in view, *i.e.*, that no man who was of military age and physically fit should remain on the active staff unless deemed "reasonably" indispensable. The work of the hospital was of considerable military importance, and failing suitable women substitutes, I objected to the removal of men who were unfit for any combatant service either at home or abroad. It seemed to me such a waste of time and public money to enlist men just to undertake war work elsewhere, and at the same time run the risk of impairing the usefulness of a great civilian institution put to military purposes. It merely saved military units at home the trouble of seeking and engaging civilian employees which the Commands had just the same facilities for obtaining as we had. They even had the great women's organisations to draw upon, which, for administrative reasons, were closed to the Sub-Committee. Fighting men, actual or potential, I was in no humour to retain for a moment longer than was necessary, or any men at all when I could do without them.

A record of all the transactions of the Sub-Committee in this respect would form material for a book in itself, and the incidents might have been interesting, even amusing, if such had been possible and occurred in peace times. Under the circumstances, time was barely sufficient to do the essential work of the hospital without this profitless ploughing of sands. After all, the business side of the hospital had to be run; if not by the Sub-Committee, then by the military authorities.

These transactions commenced late in 1915, when the temporary exemption of a male official busy finishing the equipment of the hospital, and skilled in this special work, was refused. He was clearing up stocks valued at £23,000, work which was said at the Tribunal to be suitable for a wounded soldier patient.

The Board of Control had intimated to us that, as regards military service, the male employees were not to be considered as asylum employees, and that exemption of any men of military age and fitness, though of low category, would need to be applied for from the local tribunals in the usual way. The position in February, 1916, was that forty-three of these were still on the staff of the hospital, and, acting on my advice, exemption was claimed for thirty of them. Conditional exemption for periods up to three months was given, after a struggle, for twenty-five of them. The remainder joined the colours.

Foreseeing the possibility of some danger to the safe administration of the hospital, I very reluctantly prepared a scheme to take advantage of the permission given to obtain a military status for the permanent male staff, according to the Board of Control letter on this subject, dated 26th April, 1915; and it was in readiness should occasion arise.

The Military Service Act of 1916 (Section 2) added to an already difficult situation. We had calculated on retaining those men who had been found unfit for military service, but all now were called up for re-classification. In October, 1916, extension of exemption was sought in the case of twenty men, and application made for exemption of twenty-two others who had become eligible for military service, the outcome of this new act. Only three were in category "A." We were successful in all cases. By March, 1917, we were in a position to spare more men for military service, and a total of thirty men received exemption. Great efforts continued to be made to find substitutes, especially for the one category "A" man remaining. The number shrank to twenty-two, for whom it was necessary to renew the exemptions every few months. They were almost all in the lowest categories, many near the age limit. In April, 1918, another Military Service Act came into force, and the Director-General of National Service commenced to reign.

There I will leave the matter, except for one further incident. The one remaining category "A" man, who occupied a most important post, and for whose retention there had been repeated desperate struggles, and for whose replacement I had been able at last to make a make-shift arrangement, when ordered to be graded was found to be unfit, not only for category "A," but for military service of any kind and permanently rejected—a fitting conclusion to an elaborate farce and a great waste of public money and valuable time.

The military authorities of the hospital owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Greenwood and to Mr. Keene and his staff for their services in this matter, wholly undertaken by them. Many men of less public spirit would have taken no action, but have left it to the War Office to find the staff, and have saved themselves a lot of trouble and worry.

Some Principal Events in 1916.—The year 1916 brought in its train a number of interesting incidents and developments. As regards the latter, the hospital became an ophthalmic centre in February, the electrotherapy department was completed in May, the Officers' ward was opened in July, Army Service Corp's supplies of meat commenced in August, and the question of accommodation was finally settled in September.

Hospital becomes the Horton (County of London) War Hospital.—On 30th October, 1916, the Manor (County of London) War Hospital, Epsom, was officially opened by H.R.H. Princess Christian, which necessitated a re-naming of the hospital. It was first suggested that Horton should be called No. 1 (County of London), and the Manor No. 2 (County of London) War Hospital, but to avoid confusion and make a still greater distinction, the prejudice against asylum names having apparently disappeared, it was decided they should be named the "Horton (County of London) War Hospital," and the "Manor (County of London) War Hospital," respectively.

In November, 1916, the Eastern Command ordered the hospital to fly the correct hospital flags, in accordance with the Geneva convention. Henceforth the Union Jack and the Red Cross flags were flown side by side horizontally.

Visit of the King and Queen.—Field Marshal H.M. the King made an informal inspection of the hospital and its military patients on 18th July, 1916. He was accompanied by H.M. the Queen; Countess Fortescue and Commander Sir Charles Cust, Bt., R.N., were in attendance.

I was notified of the King's intentions by telephone the day before, and immediately communicated the news to the London County Authorities. As the King desired to see as many of the patients as possible, I arranged that all those patients confined to bed, but fit to be moved, were to be taken to the downstairs wards for the afternoon; and the patients up and about to be in the recreation hall. It was an ordinary visiting day, which I did not interfere with, feeling sure this would meet with his Majesty's approval.

The King and Queen arrived outside the main entrance of the hospital at 3.45 p.m. Awaiting them were Sir Cyril S. Cobb, K.B.E., and Mr. H. V. Rowe, Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Asylums and Mental Deficiency Committee; Mr. H. J. Greenwood, D.L., Chairman of the Hospital Sub-Committee; the Lady St. Helier; Mr. H. F. Keene, Clerk to the Asylums Committee; and Mr. W. C. Clifford Smith, Asylums Engineer; the principal medical and administrative officers of the hospital; and also a crowd of nurses, patients, and visitors. The fleet of ambulances with their drivers were stationed at the centre. The representatives of the Civilian Authorities and the principal officers having been presented, the King at once moved off on his tour of inspection. I accompanied him as Officer Commanding; the Queen, who followed immediately, was accompanied by the Matron. All the ground-floor wards were visited, fifteen in number—quite a considerable walk. On entering a ward, the medical officer and sister in charge were presented, but thereafter Commander Sir Charles Cust sturdily kept the door, so that, apart from the Matron and myself, their Majesties could speak their words of comfort and cheer to the patients in private. Their homeliness, kindness, and sincerity were very touching, and many a patient had as much as he could do to keep his emotions in check. His Majesty took particular notice of those patriotic old men whose forgetfulness of their real age had enabled them to join the ranks of our splendid army of defence. The King asked many questions

about the hospital, its former use, and the present administration, and was very much interested in all I had to tell him. Afterwards, when Mr. Keene and Mr. Clifford Smith were presented to him, he showed his interest in the lunacy work of London.

After one-half of the wards had been visited, the royal party walked through the recreation hall, which presented an amazing sight. Not only were the gallery and stage crowded, but the ubiquitous Tommy had in some way made the row of billiard tables down the centre of the room a kind of grand stand. The roar of welcome from the 2,000 to 3,000 soldiers, staff, and visitors present can be imagined. The King for a moment was taken aback, but the way was quite clear and the progress through the hall uninterrupted. The King and Queen were obviously much pleased with the hearty and loyal welcome they received. The remainder of the ground-floor wards were then visited, and the centre again reached at 5.5 p.m. The King saw, during the one hour and twenty minutes the inspection took, nearly the whole of the 2,000 or so patients in residence from all parts of the Empire, and spoke to most of those confined to bed. He was very pleased at having accomplished this so easily and with the arrangements I had made, and expressed to me the great satisfaction the visit had given both himself and the Queen. The hall, in the meantime, had emptied itself, and its cheering crowd was lining the main drive as the royal visitors drove away.

Other Distinguished Visitors during 1916.—Arrangements were made in January, 1916, for the hospital to be visited by members and chief officers of the London County Council. Among those who paid us a visit at this time were the Earl and Countess of Haddo and Sir Melville and Lady Beachcroft.

On 4th April, the late Lieut.-General Sir W. Babbie, V.C., K.C.M.G., accompanied by Sir A. W. L. Bayly, K.C.B., inspected the hospital. They were particularly interested in the way we had staffed the hospital, and made close inquiries as to how the medical and administrative work was being carried out. This was Sir W. Babbie's first visit, and from time to time afterwards we saw a good deal of him.

General Sir W. Bayly again visited on 14th September, this time accompanied by Mrs. Leach, who was then head of the cookery and kitchen department at the War Office. The latter was immensely pleased with the general kitchen and our methods of feeding the patients.

The hospital was also inspected on 26th May by Surgeon-General Sir N. R. Howse, V.C., K.C.B., who was accompanied by Lieut.-Col. W. W. Giblin, C.B., A.D.M.S., A.I.F. Both were abundantly satisfied with the care and attention the Australians were receiving, and delighted with the brightness and cheerfulness of the hospital and especially the outdoor treatment of the patients.

An interested visitor, on 2nd June, was Sir Almroth Wright, the great bacteriologist, to whom the progress of military hygiene owes so much.

On 30th October, 1916, I was delighted to show round the hospital the Rt. Hon. William Crooks, M.P., and in no less degree were the patients delighted to see him. He was recognised immediately he stepped into the first ward, and a speech was at once called for. The enthusiasm of the soldiers was unbounded.

More Accommodation for Soldiers Required.—During the four years and more I was in charge of the hospital I learned to be certain of one fact, and that was, when I saw Dr. C. Hubert Bond, of the Board of Control, coming up the main drive, I could at once make up my mind for more work. On 10th July, I was somewhat flustered by a visit from Major-General F. G. Bond, C.B., Assistant Director of Quarterings, who was accompanied by Colonel Simpson, Mr. Waldron, of the War Office, and Mr. Clifford Smith. The question again was the need for more hospital accommodation; and what could be done to meet it either here or in the neighbourhood. However, when on 13th July I was again visited by the same gentlemen, accompanied by Dr. Bond, matters seemed to be getting serious. This time, as subsequent events showed, I was to be spared, for which I was devoutly thankful, though I fancy on the whole I had a narrow escape. I was not so fortunate on 10th June, 1918, as is related in the section devoted to the officers' clinique. I had before now expressed my opinion to the Board of Control, an opinion which quite coincided

with their's, that any considerable addition to 2,000 patients under one hospital command was not in the best interests of the patients, and overburdened the administration. This point I held to now, though I could quite see that if the L.C.C. should free the Epileptic Colony, many of its administrative services could be undertaken here.

Concerts and Entertainments in 1916.—The entertainments and concerts during 1916 were noteworthy, because of the occasions on which children's parties were the principal contributors. Their efforts were always a complete success, and keenly relished by the soldier patients. The Dulwich Branch of the Young People's Union gave "The Pageant of Empire," which was a splendid show; while the dancing of the children from Ewell Infant Schools, and the pupils of Miss Hancorne James, of Croydon, was beyond all praise. The Metropolitan Police Minstrels gave one of their excellent entertainments; and other artists who visited included such favourites as Miss Violet Essex, Miss Marie Lloyd, Mr. Sam Mayo, Miss Lottie Lennox, Miss Florence Costello, and many others.

Patients Visit Buckingham Palace.—At the King and Queen's Tea Party, held in March, 1916, at Buckingham Palace, 160 patients were able to attend. They very thoroughly enjoyed themselves and rejoiced exceedingly over the splendid time they had spent.

Gifts, etc., during 1916—The public continued their generous support to the Comforts Fund, and the local cinematographs devoted to it the takings of special performances. The King and Queen sent pheasants and hares and pheasants' eggs; and the 1900 Club commenced their supplies of pheasants, hares, rabbits, etc., which continued until the hospital closed. A billiard table was given to one of the wards by Mrs. Ronald Peak, of Ashstead, and wheeled chairs were presented by Sir Marshall and Lady Reed, Mrs. Lawrence and Mr. Goddard (himself a legless man), the tea room helpers from Wallington, and Mr. E. Elphick, of Epsom. The Committee of the Epsom and Ewell War Hospital, on closing down, presented us with a number of electrical and surgical appliances, which were valuable and most useful gifts.

Deaths of Sister Harrower and Nurse Bell.—Considerable distress was caused to both patients and staff by the death of Principal Sister A. Harrower, on 6th March, 1916, and of probationer nurse A. M. Bell, on 14th April, 1916. They were both buried in the Epsom Cemetery with many expressions of grief and regret. Fortunately, we were spared more of these sorrowful experiences until after the armistice. Sister Mary FitzHenry succeeded as Senior Principal Sister, while, on 14th April, 1916, it became necessary to appoint Sister M. L. Baines to be Junior Principal Sister.

Death of Field Marshal Lord Kitchener.—The ingrained and deep respect the soldiers felt for Field Marshal Lord Kitchener was very manifest by the consternation, almost amounting to despair, with which the news of his untimely death was received by them on 6th June, 1916. There was a large congregation of officers and men at an impressive memorial service, held on 13th June, 1916, in the church. The hospital staff, by His Majesty's commands, wore mourning for one week.

Mrs. Hampton, of Ewell, provides Rest Home for Nurses.—The hospital had a very great friend indeed in Mrs. Hampton, of Seleng, Ewell, who was untiring in her work for the hospital. In June, 1916, she suitably furnished a cottage as a rest home for tired nurses, where they could seek a few days complete rest and relaxation. This generous lady's death, in September, 1917, was a sad loss to us, and she was much missed by both patients and staff.

War Office Appreciation of the Military Nursing by Mental Nurses.—A letter from the Board of Control, dated 13th November, 1916, stated that Miss E. H. Becher, Matron-in-Chief at the War Office, had, on a recent important occasion, paid a tribute to the excellence of the services being rendered in war hospitals by the former mental nurses. She had asked if two or three of them from each of the war hospitals, if willing, could be sent overseas as nurses at hospitals abroad, say, for a period of some six months. She would be glad of their services in this connection, and of the opportunity the arrangement would give of marking the appreciation of the War Office of the services of the asylum probationer nurses as a whole. The

matter was carefully considered by the Sub-Committee, and while much gratified at the proposed compliment to the mental nurses, they did not see their way to recommend any action to be taken in this direction. I was in complete agreement with them, for I knew that a number of the trained staff were hungering for foreign service, for which, at the moment, they could not be spared, and to make special arrangements for the permanent nurses to have tours of duty abroad would disturb matters considerably. There was also the additional reason, that, apart from the actual nursing of the patients, our permanent staff were indispensable to the administration, and would be for some time. I am glad to record this incident, for there had appeared in the Nursing Press special articles and correspondence, on the whole not very wise in tone and making invidious distinctions, in some cases almost amounting to down-right snobbishness, between sick and mental nurses. The Matron-in-Chief was altogether above all, this twaddle. Disease, whether of mind or body, is destructive to the race and has to be fought as a "Holy War"; and nursing is something higher than £ s. d. and class distinctions. The Author of the great campaign against sin was born in a stable, and all His disciples were sinners, some notoriously evil doers, and few would be classed nowadays among the refined and educated. It is the greatness of the purpose which unites and sanctifies those who follow callings which have for their object the relief of suffering and the furtherance of health and happiness.

Cash Advances to Men in Hospitals.—In November, 1916, the Army Council put an end to the farce of military patients in hospital not being allowed to have money in their possession. It was a remnant of the times when the soldier was in hospital commonly for reasons which he might have avoided, and was an additional inducement for him to get well quickly and go back to duty. In a disciplinary service there are sound psychological reasons for not making hospital life too much of a heavenly bliss, but the orders as regards soldiers in hospital not having money to spend were unworkable under the circumstances of the great war. Here we had neither the time nor the necessary officials to buy for soldiers their small requirements and carry out the compli-

cated system of accounting designed to recover the amount from his pay. We tried it at first, but I concluded it would rather pay the country to provide these things free of cost. So it ceased and the Lady Almoner stepped in. The soldiers always had money, and in plenty. They were freely visited, their correspondence was not *vised*; they walked out daily, or their pals did. How could they be prevented from retaining money in their possession? I always told them that I would not be responsible if they lost it, that any considerable sum, if found in their possession, would be handed to the Quartermaster for safe keeping; and when a soldier complained that somebody had stolen his hoard, I merely said it served him right, and took no further action. However, the issue of A.C.I. 2175, of 1916, was much welcomed by the patients, and put things right. Each ward was allotted a weekly pay day and was visited by a lady pay clerk, who effected the payments. The patients' diet sheets, in practice, carried the authority. Money was forwarded to the auxiliary hospitals on receipt of a nominal roll, certified to by the medical officer. It increased the work in the clerk's office, but it was well worth it.

Additional Auxiliary Hospitals Affiliated, some closed.

—St. Mary's Red Cross Hospital, Duxhurst, closed on 28th February, 1916, and the Nelson Hospital ceased to receive patients from us on 29th June, 1916. During 1915, we supplied patients for a few weeks to Piccard's Rough Red Cross Hospital, Guildford, and for some months during 1916 to Heywood Red Cross Hospital, Cobham, and Oaklands Red Cross Hospital, Cranleigh. The Epsom and Ewell War Hospital closed, much to my regret, on 29th February, 1916.

Four additional auxiliary hospitals were affiliated during 1916, and remained open until after the armistice:—

Name.	No. of beds.
Coulsdon and Purley Military Hospital, Purley...	30
Merstham Red Cross Hospital, Merstham ...	30
Hillfield Red Cross Hospital, Reigate ...	50
Burntwood Red Cross Hospital, Caterham ...	58

Our auxiliary hospitals had not merely nominal relationship with the hospital. Patients were constantly going to

and fro, and all returned for inspection and approval before final discharge.

To complete the auxiliary hospitals, I took over, on 15th October, 1917, our only officers' hospital, viz., The Prince of Wales' Hospital, Staines—the outcome of the generosity of two Indian princes. This hospital was formerly affiliated to Queen Alexandra's Hospital, Millbank. It received patients from practically all the southern counties, all more or less convalescent, but some needing electrical treatment, which it was splendidly equipped to give.

Decorating Brave Soldier Patients.—It was quite early my lot, at the bidding of the G.O.C.-in-Chief, Eastern Command, to decorate patients who had distinguished themselves in the field, and who were likely to remain in hospital for some time. These pleasing little ceremonies were simple, but impressive. The fellow patients were drawn up in the ward, and, on my appearance, called to attention by the senior warrant or non-commissioned officer. Officers and nurses, and sometimes the delighted friends and relatives, stood near. I briefly explained my mission and on whose authority I acted, and then pinned the decoration on the patient's breast, offering at the same time my congratulations; a hand shake with the patient and I left. There was always much enthusiasm shown by the other patients, and I feel sure the incident always cheered up the recipient of the King's appreciation.

Christmas Ceremonies.—The glad season of Christmas was kept up each year with unabated vigour and a joyous carrying out of the old traditional customs and ceremonies, as far as war conditions would permit. The only alteration of note in the proceedings to those related of 1915 was the holding of a parade and reception in the recreation hall immediately after Church, at which the Lady Almoner made her Christmas gifts. It began by calling the men to order; whereupon I read out the Gracious Message from the King and Queen, and any Greetings from the Heads of Colonial Governments and others. After offering my own greetings, all the officers present assisted Lady St. Helier and her helpers to give out the presents.



HORTON (COUNTY OF LONDON) WAR HOSPITAL, EPSOM.

SPECIAL ORDER—25th December, 1916,

By Lt.-Colonel J. R. LORD, R.A.M.C., Officer Commanding.

Message from the King and Queen.

I am commanded to convey to the Sailors and Soldiers in Hospital the following gracious message from the King and Queen:—

"I send you, my Sailors and Soldiers, Hearty Good Wishes for Xmas and the New Year. My grateful thoughts are ever with you, for victories gained, for hardships endured, and your unfailing cheeriness.

"Another Xmas has come round and we are still at war, but the Empire, confident in you, remains determined to win. May God bless and protect you.

"This Xmas-tide the Queen and I are thinking more than ever of the sick and wounded among our Sailors and Soldiers. From our hearts we wish them strength to bear their suffering, speedy restoration to health, a peaceful Xmas, and many happier years to come."

(Signed) JOHN R. LORD,

O.C. Horton (County of London) War Hospital.

25/12/16, Epsom.

New Year's Eve Concerts.—Partly to prevent a recurrence of the *contretemps* which occurred on the New Year's Eve of 1915, and which appeared to be due to the absence of some function to suit the occasion, it was decided on subsequent anniversaries to gather as many of the patients as possible in the recreation hall after 8 p.m. to take part in a really good concert and entertainment until midnight. The recreation hall on these occasions was always packed to its uttermost capacity, and the proceedings very animated. The programme provided ample opportunity for the patients to "let off steam," and they joined in the singing of the choruses with great heartiness. When the New Year arrived, a short speech from me, followed by "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem, finished the Old Year, after which the patients went quietly to bed.