



ENTRANCE—COODEN CAMP.

A SHORT HISTORY OF PRINCESS PATRICIA CANADIAN RED CROSS HOSPITAL.

What is now known as Princess Patricia Canadian Red Cross Hospital, had its origin at Ramsgate in January, 1917, when the No. 4 C.C.S. opened up the St. Lawrence College in that much raided town, as a special convalescent hospital for Canadians. When, on June 1st, 1917, the above Unit went to France, the hospital was taken over by Lt.-Col. A. J. Mackenzie as O.C., and Major G. B. Peat as adjutant; the requisite staff to make up the establishment of a six hundred-bed hospital being drawn from the C.A.M.C. Depot. Not long after taking over, Colonel Mackenzie was granted an establishment, the Unit thereafter being known as the P.P.C.R.C. Special Hospital.

In August, of the same year, it was deemed advisable to evacuate all the hospitals in the Ramsgate and Broadstairs area, and on the 29th of that month 500 patients were sent to Epsom, the balance going to Monks Horton on September 4th; the personnel of the Unit being distributed to various hospitals, until such time as a new home could be found.

It was not until January, 1918, that a home was found, when, about the 15th of that month, a party, consisting of a part of the staff of the Ramsgate Unit and a part of the Uxbridge Unit, took over Cooden Camp, and the fitting up of the huts as hospital wards was at once proceeded with. Shortly after this, Lt.-Col. T. C. D. Bedell and Major R. H. Sutherland being appointed Commandant and Adjutant respectively, and the establishment raised to a "2250 bed capacity" hospital with the called-for increase in personnel.

Since being taken over by the Canadians great improvements have been made, and this is especially noticeable in the approach to the hospital, and around the numerous huts that go to make up the camp. What with laying down of grass and the making of attractive flower beds, the camp is hardly recognizable to those who knew Cooden in the times when the Canadians 'were not.' The work has been done entirely by the personnel, assisted by patients who were fit for the work, and is very favourably commented upon by all visitors.