

represented by the beds I saw in the hospital, it is not overcrowded. It is in very good condition—it is clean and comfortable.” My personal conviction is that a man in the Base Hospital had just as good a chance for recovery as patients elsewhere. The doctors and nurses all did their duty.”

Dr. C. K. Clarke, who followed Dr. J. N. E. Brown as Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital, said there was accommodation in the public wards for 320 beds and in the private wards for 80 beds. Dr. Clarke admitted that he never had 700 patients in the institution. He thought 400 beds would be the limit of crowding.

Director-General Fotheringham was of the opinion that much of the trouble arose from those who had some grievance to air, and did so in the press, and by anonymous letters. He also said that the public press was at fault in knocking the hospital. Answering the question about overcrowding, he said: “I won’t admit it was. I don’t believe it was.” Having the high regard for General Fotheringham which we have, we regret he made these remarks.

Col. Irving, the present A.D.M.S., admitted that the hospital was overcrowded. He said: “I think it was on the 2nd my attention was drawn to the overcrowding. I went to the R.A.F. and saw Major Rubie, and told him we were up against it for space. I told him that it was necessary that we should get the east residence of Burwash Hall to relieve the congestion.” Col. Irving admitted that the hospital is not a model one, but would do for an emergency one. He admitted that if there had been a hospital of 1,100 beds there would have been no overcrowding.

From all these opinions one must conclude that there was a good deal of overcrowding at the Base Hospital. This must be admitted as bad for patients, no matter what the diseases may be, and especially bad in an epidemic of influenza.

It has been proven that overcrowding gives rise to pneumonia cases. What has been observed is that several thousand persons working in confined quarters will yield more cases of pneumonia, tuberculosis, and bronchitis, than a similar number of persons working in the open. When this is the case among the well, it is doubly so among the sick, and particularly if the sickness is of a pulmonary character.

No one will gainsay the statement that our soldiers should be treated as men, and given the best that is going. In the army no one is entitled to greater credit than the private; for it is he who faces the enemy at closest range, and bears the brunt of the fighting. He gives and receives the shock of war. All honor to him, and treat him well. The Jury hearing the case, condemned the accommodation in the hospital. This finding is given on another page.