

them, and when they saw how few we were, they counter-attacked and drove us out of the village, but we managed to keep 311 of their men and they are now on the way to a compound. How we got away I don't know exactly—'twas pure luck. The country side is a huge mass of boulders and ravines, and already we have lost two officers with fractured legs.

Just now shell-fire is nearly unknown. It is all good guerilla warfare, midnight work at close range, and we can beat the Turk at it, at least the Welsh boys can, as we have a particularly fine lot of first line Territorials with us. Since Beersheba started, our lot has had well over 12 stunts, so we are a pretty busy lot these days."

Report of the Resident Secretary.

October, 1917.

There has been very little change in the general conditions at the Home during the month of October.

Although the Canadians have during September and October been gradually tightening their hold on the suburbs of Lens, they were engaged only in local operations in that neighborhood and their casualties were comparatively slight. There was, consequently, a smaller number of Canadian wounded sent over from France and less pressure on the Canadian Convalescent Homes in England. During the greater part of the month, therefore, we had from 10% to 20% vacant beds in the Home, but they were again filled up as the acute hospitals were evacuated to receive the wounded from the heavy fighting on the Passchendaele Ridge.

The proportions of Dressing and Massage cases remain about the same as for the past two or three months, viz., 55% to 60% Dressing cases and 30% to 40% Massage cases out of the total number of patients in the Home. We have still a number of "Jaw" cases to which reference was made in last month's report, but arrangements are now being made for the special surgical and convalescent treatment of these men altogether in one hospital, so that in all probability no more of them will be sent to Kingswood.

The weather was exceptionally wet and cold throughout the most of the month, so that the men were not able to get out in the grounds and shrubberies to do much gardening work, but whenever the weather permitted they were able to put in an hour or two's healthy work and exercise in the grounds. A number of the men were also healthfully and profitably employed in picking up the fallen horse-chestnuts and acorns from the trees in the grounds and park. In this way several hundredweights of chestnuts and acorns were collected and sent on to one of the collecting stations of the Ministry of Munitions for the extraction of spirit required in the manufacture of explosives.

The Kingswood gardens continue to do splendidly and provide a plentiful supply of green vegetables, sufficient for all the men

every day. Potatoes are an exceptionally good crop, so that they are plentiful and cheap; the Food Controller's regulations have had the effect of making a reduction of about 25% in the very high prices of bread and meat to which they had gradually risen during the past summer and autumn, so that three of the principal necessaries can now be secured at more reasonable figures. Most of the other articles of food, however, continue to become more scarce and to rise in price—this applies specially to tea, bacon, butter, margarine, eggs and milk.

We have, however, fair stocks in our stores, and whilst exercising the strictest economy, our men want for nothing and continue to be provided with sufficient wholesome nourishment and well-cooked food. In this respect, as in others, Kingswood enjoys both in England and even amongst the men in France a most enviable reputation as compared with other convalescent homes and hospitals.

Our good friend and neighbor Mr. Bingham, has continued to take out small parties of our men for a ride in his motor-car on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, also occasionally in the evenings he takes out parties for a drive varied by an hour at a picture show. These pleasure drives will unfortunately have to be stopped, as the restrictions regarding the use of gasoline are much more severe from the 1st November onwards, no licences nor issues of gasoline being now permitted except for national work.

With the beginning of October, we commenced our winter season's entertainments, which usually comprise a concert once a week, and a whist drive every week or two. Other competitions are arranged from time to time, such as billiard and bagatelle tournaments. Prizes such as cigarette cases, pipes, belts, purses, shaving utensils, etc., which are useful to soldiers to carry in their kit bags, are given. These are purchased from a special fund, to which handsome contributions have been made by many friends both in Canada and England. Now in the dark, cold winter evenings the men