

programme of weekly concerts, whist drives, billiard, cribbage and other competitions. A plentiful supply of newspapers, magazines, books and other reading matter is always available for the men in the comfortable recreation rooms. During the first year at Kingswood we received quite a number of invitations from neighbors for the men to attend garden parties, teas, musical evenings, etc., at their houses, but of late these have almost ceased on account of the food shortage and the strict rationing regulations of the Food Controller. To partly take their place, we have, thanks to the generosity of several friends in Toronto and London, been able to send parties of the men from time to time to different theatres in London—a greatly appreciated outing.

Every Sunday at 10 a.m. a short religious service is held in the Home, the ministers of the different denominations in the neighborhood taking the service in turn. The service is usually finished by 10.30 or 10.40, so that the men are then free to attend any of the churches in the neighborhood for the usual Sunday morning service at 11.

The only change in the nursing staff during the year has been the addition of Miss Gertrude Northmore, of Toronto, who arrived in December, 1917, to take the place of Miss Florence Oram, who was unfortunately obliged to return to Canada to nurse her only sister who was seriously ill. We also were unfortunately deprived of the services of Sgt. Major Foley in November, 1917, who then received long merited promotion and was transferred to a more important position. The new Sergeant-in-charge is Sgt. John McKay, who was in Toronto for several years before joining the C.A.M.C. at the commencement of the war. We have had many changes in our Medical Officer, the present one being Capt. A. R. Perry, who was in pre-war times in practice in Mount Forest, Ont.

The men continue to show their appreciation of all that is done for them at Kingswood by their excellent behaviour. Although free as far as possible from any irksome military regulations, they do not take liberties, and it is very rarely that any disciplinary steps require to be taken. This is in great part due to the excellent influence for good which the Matron and the Sisters continue to exercise upon the men. In addition to performing their ordinary nursing duties, these ladies continue to take a real personal interest in the welfare of the men, so that even the most lonely boy feels that in Kingswood he has a real home. As compared with other convalescent homes and hospitals, Kingswood continues to enjoy a most enviable reputation. Members of the staff receive many letters from old patients after their return to duty in France, or from Canada, and whenever a man is on leave and in the neighborhood he never fails to pay Kingswood a visit. In this

and in many other ways, the men show that they appreciate all that is done for their comfort and well-being, and it should also help to show the generous subscribers to the maintenance of the Home that Kingswood continues to prove to be all that they ever intended and desired—a real home from home for Canadian soldiers.

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Extract from Letter from Gunner  
J. F. G. Wood, B.E.F., France,  
2nd April, 1918

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"In spite of our withdrawal, all is still going well with us and we are by no means downhearted at our setback.

"On the 8th of last month we went out on rest for three weeks, but it came to a hurried end on the 21st, when the Huns commenced their long expected offensive. We were sent direct to the scene of activity, and had quite a lively time during the following ten days, in which period we had no less than eight moves. However, I think we have got settled down again, at least for a few days, as we appear to be holding Fritz in our sector. It has been an anxious time for us, but we have not had the worst of it by any means. Though I am anxious for a speedy Allied victory, I could not help but feel sorry for the slaves of militarism as they were simply mown down by our fire at point-blank range. It was only their huge forces pressing on that made us fall back, and their losses must have been awful. Several I have spoken to have seen the dead bodies piled high on top of one another. If he continues to press on as he has been doing, he will lose a very high percentage of his fighting strength, and his losses have done more towards cheering us on than anything else could possibly do. We are slowly wearing them down, and it will not be so very long before we have the upper hand as complete as we have at present in the air. It is very rare that a Hun plane ventures over our lines, and this battle has been conspicuous by their absence. Our air men are easily masters of the air, and I hope it will not be long before we can say the same of our land forces. In our particular sector we are well prepared for him, and if he should renew his attacks he will suffer as heavily as he has done during the last fortnight. He has gained nothing with all the land he has captured as it is as desolate a bit of country as one will find anywhere.

"I sincerely trust that if any other member of the staff has taken part in this battle, they will have come through it safely."