

Valedictory

In packing up my old kit bag to leave the Granville and the *Canadian Hospital News*, in which and at which I have spent the past four months, I confess to feeling more regret than relief.

When last September I was put on *Hospital News* fatigue, I did not have the advantage of "taking over" personally from my predecessor, who had already departed. He had left behind, however, the legacy of a file of some twenty numbers, which had to serve as introduction, precedent, and *point de départ*. At first the struggle for copy and circulation seemed about as productive as recruiting in Quebec, but gradually the "constituency" became more familiar, and talent and interest began to disclose themselves here and there, so that now the inflow of copy and the outflow of copies have become very gratifying to the *News* staff, who feel that the paper is really fulfilling its function of developing an *esprit de corps*, an intimacy, and a circulation of good-natured fun throughout the Granville hospitals, as well as supplying a weekly souvenir.

In leaving I wish to thank all those who have contributed to the *News* copy boxes, whether their contribution has been a type-written sonnet or a scribbled "breeze." We're sorry we couldn't use them all, in the same way that a medical officer hates to turn down a volunteer he can't pass. I hope there may not be a single sting left behind over any little sallies that have been made, always in the spirit of pure journalistic fun.

I don't wish to leave unsaid my appreciation of the ungrudging services of the members of the Chatham House Press, who have always preferred to work overtime rather than fail to get the paper out punctually and presentably.

It gives me great satisfaction, in leaving, to know that so experienced a journalist as Pte. Giolma, who has already been *en liaison*, is prepared to "carry on" with the *News*. So there will be no break in our little paper, which has already established in the field of khaki journalism a record for continuity and frequency of appearance. Under his able leadership and the enthusiastic inspiration of Capt. Withrow (of whose whole-hearted, practical interest I cannot speak too highly), and with the continued support of Granville Canadians, I believe that the *Canadian Hospital News* will become more than ever the ideal expression of military hospital life and spirit, and that its files will be a cheerful souvenir of one phase and one corner of the Great War.

And so, readers, contributors, and colleagues, *au revoir*.

HAROLD S. PATTON,
("P.P.," *Psmyth, Blue Streak*).