

## HISTORY OF THE UNIT

### MOBILIZATION: No. 5 STATIONARY HOSPITAL

In November, 1915, the Officer at present in command of this unit offered to raise for Overseas service the personnel of a Stationary Hospital. A reply was received from the Secretary of the Militia Council to the effect that while the patriotic offer was appreciated, there was at the time no opportunity of taking advantage of it. In this unsatisfactory state the matter continued. From time to time Medical Units were organized, but no word came as to whether our proposed unit would or would not be needed. In Medical as in other branches there was at that period no clear understanding of the great demands that would ultimately have to be met.

In order to obtain a definite decision in the matter, a visit was made to Ottawa, and through the kindness of Mr. W. F. Nickle, M.P., an interview was arranged with the Minister of Militia. As a result a cable was sent to the War Office, London, repeating the offer, and in a few days orders were received to proceed with the organization of the unit.

The message was received at Kingston at one o'clock in the morning of March 26th, and at nine o'clock recruiting began. At this time the Medical Faculty of Queen's University agreed to give its support and assistance, so that from the beginning success was assured. Students from all Faculties offered themselves, and much care was exercised in the selection of the personnel. In addition to the ordinary tests for military service, every man chosen was required to have a clear academic record and to be of good character. Of the total of eighty-nine other ranks, eighty were students or graduates of one or other Faculties, and of these seven were Doctors of Medicine. Eventually most of these men were transferred to other services, where they received commissions. Many of the Medical students were subsequently returned to Canada in order that they might complete their studies. Some details of the changes may be found in the pages that follow. Although such a large proportion of the original men have left, there can be no doubt that their qualities have imparted to the unit a character and distinction of much value.

The Nursing Sisters—thirty-five in number—were selected from a large number of applicants. They came for the most part from Eastern Ontario. The majority are still with the Hospital, although they now form a relatively small group. By reason of our frequent change of location, they have done temporary duty at many Hospitals in England, in Egypt, and in France, but they are always ready to return to the unit which they have come to call their "home." Long hours, hard work, few holidays, and trying conditions of many kinds have failed to damp either their enthusiasm for their calling or their loyalty to the unit of which they were original members.

For the staff of a Stationary Hospital at that time only ten officers were needed—eight Medical Officers, a Dental Surgeon, and a Quartermaster. The problem was to select this number from the many who offered. In the selection two objects were kept in view: first, that the officer should measure up in professional attainments, and second that his personal qualities should make for efficiency, comradeship, and *esprit de corps*. The Medical Faculty was most generous in releasing its members for this service, with the result that the eight medical officers comprised:—the Professor of Clinical Surgery, the Professor of Pathology, the Professor of Anatomy, the Assistant Professor of Surgery, and Clinical Assistants in Eye and Ear and in Medicine. Of the original ten, seven remain. They have served continuously for nearly three years with this unit, and it is not too much to say that