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JANUARY, 1916] Editor: CAPT. A. R. B. DUCK. Business Manager: CAPT. W. F. FOX. News Editor: SERGT. E. B. ROGERS. [Price 50 CENTIMES

Editorial Note

WELL here we are again with our second number. Our first exceeded even our expectations, both in the demand for copies and in the spirit in which it was received. This number which we hope to have in the hands of our readers early in the New Year will, we hope, meet with as good a reception. Quite a number of articles sent in for this number have not been accepted, not that they were without merit, but on account of their being copies or clippings. We welcome anything for our columns, but to ensure its publication it must be original, for if we are nothing else we are at least this. Clippings must be of more than ordinary interest to allow us to give them space in the "Record," as our aim is not to give you a review of the news of the outside world, but rather, as the newspapers say, inside information.

Kindly send in all articles for publication in the "Splint Record" to Sergt. Rogers, News Editor, not later than the fifteenth of the month in which you wish your article to appear.

We regret to announce the departure of Capt. W. F. Fox from our unit who has been called to take a position on the Staff of the Ontario Government Hospital at Orpington, England. Where he goes we cannot go, and we hope to goodness he does not go to prepare a place for us.

Copies of the "Splint Record" may be obtained at the following places, Y.M.C.A., Canteen, and all News Stands.

THE EDITORS.

WITH OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

Information for the Canadian Soldier?

(Extract from "The Listening Post.")

If you are taken prisoner and wish to assign a small portion of your pay, say three pounds a month, to the Canadian Red Cross Society for the purpose of purchasing comforts, write to the Chief Paymaster, Westminster House, 7, Millbank, London, and necessary action will be taken.

Would the Editor of the "Listening Post" inform us what action would be necessary to take in the case of anyone assigning three pounds to the Canadian Red Cross; would the prisoner be liberated as being mentally unfit for service?

The first number of "Now and Then," issued by and in the interests of No. 3 Field Ambulance, has been received. It is certainly a neat little paper, well printed and of convenient size for mailing to friends at home. Original in make-up, without being padded with clippings it is certainly a credit to the Editors and to the Company. We wish them success, and hope to have the pleasure of seeing their second number soon.

Our Work

The object of this short article is to give those interested in us a general idea of what our work is, and how, and where we do it.

Letters from our friends at home tell us that there exists a certain vagueness in their midst as to just what a Field Ambulance is, and where in the chain of medical arrangements it performs its task of caring for the sick and wounded. We have even received from official sources, communications directed to No. 2 Field Hospital, and letters addressed to the "Chief Matron, 2nd Canadian Field Ambulance." Little do they imagine that our Chief Matron wears riding breeches and shaves every morning.

The Censor will not permit us to tell in just what part of France or Belgium we are situated, so we put on our letters "On Active Service"—At the front—or—In the Field. These terms look very pretty, and are very high-sounding, but they are also most indefinite, and convey nothing to the outsider.

We are not a Hospital in the accepted sense of the word, nor are we located at the Base, in one of the Southern sea-coast Summer resorts of Sunny France. No fair nursing sisters grace our humble dressing station, to soothe the fevered brow of the sick, or to comfort the wounded when he is in our care.

In our natural position we form the connecting link between the Medical Officer in the trenches, with his Battalion, and the Hospitals four or five miles in rear of the fighting line. Sick and wounded men only encumber a fighting force and decrease its efficiency in action. So when men get wounded or take sick, the stretcher bearers of the Battalion gather them together in some sheltered spot just behind the trenches. This is called the "Aid Post," for here the man receives his first attention from the Regimental Medical Officer, who binds up his wounds, and gives such treatment as lies in his power. Those cases that are unable to return to duty are gathered together and a tag is attached to each, giving his regimental particulars, and the nature of his wounds or illness.

It is at this point that the Field Ambulance begins its work. A Field Ambulance collects the wounded from several "Aid Posts," at each of which are stationed two of our bearers, who keep in touch with, and arrange for the early removal of their casualties, either by hand carrying, wheeled stretchers, or if possible, by horse ambulance, back to our advanced "Collecting Post," some half a mile or so further to the rear. Here two of our officers are always on duty, and they examine the cases to see that the bleeding is controlled, dressing properly applied, and splints securely adjusted or re-inforced. The patients are then evacuated without delay back to our Main Dressing Station, which is usually situated about a mile and a half or two miles further to the rear. Here comparative safety exists, except for possible shelling. The wounds can be properly examined, cleansed and clean dressings applied. The wet dirty clothing is removed and the man made as comfortable as his condition permits. With a drink of hot beef-tea or cocoa, a

cigarette between his lips, and a cheery word from the Padre, the wounded man regains in a large measure his self-confidence and happiness.

No unnecessary surgical operations are performed here, and we confine our energies to such emergency operations as cases demand. A complete and accurate record of each case is taken here, and with his original tag, upon which has been noted, any additional treatment given, and a proper transfer certificate, the patient passes from the care of the Field Ambulance and is evacuated to the nearest Hospital. Daily, weekly, and monthly official reports are made with reference to our work, in addition to answering all regular correspondence.

A fair idea as to the extent of our work and our possibilities may be arrived at from the size of our personnel and our equipment. To perform our work we have the following establishment: Nine Medical Officers, a Dentist, and about 250 specially trained non-commissioned officers and men. Our medical and surgical equipment is very portable. It consists of a large supply of drugs and three complete sets of instruments, with everything that the modern operating room demands, even to acetylene lamps and operating table. These are carried in a set of panniers, and are arranged in the most compact and serviceable manner. We have a transport of 53 horses and 15 wagons to carry our stores, as well as sufficient tentage to house us all and 150 patients; also three water carts, three horse-ambulances, and seven motor-ambulances to transport our wounded. We also number amongst us, a Quartermaster who fills our stomachs, a Paymaster who looks after our pockets, and a Clergyman who cares for our spiritual welfare.

We are a very mobile unit; we may be here to-day and gone to-morrow, and at one stage in our career, thought we could compete favourably with any Circus Show in pulling up stakes, getting away and settling down in any ten-acre field and opening out for business. We pride ourselves in the fact that every place we visit is left in a cleaner and more sanitary condition than when we arrived. Our boys have scrubbed and chlorinated more of France and Belgium than has yet been put on record.

And finally so that none of the glorious happenings of No. 2 Field Ambulance may be lost to future generations, a detailed record of all our doings is kept in an "Official Diary."

TRANSPORT'S NOTES.

Who is the N.C.O. who had to ask the transport men at the advance how to put on splints for a broken arm?

Who is the driver in the transport who expects to be in charge of ten horses when he returns from pass?

Who is the driver who went on pass wearing a sling belt? Does he use it for a stretcher sling when in France?

When is the "Little Man of Medals" going to learn to walk to his dug-out and not crawl on his hands and knees?

Any person wishing to learn the banjo please apply to T.H. transport billet.

Should Staff-Sergeant Hurst wear a Red Cross or a Blue one?

We hear that the cooks, farrier, wheeler, despatch rider, and bootmaker are going into the band now that they have lost their working pay.