

Report of the Resident Secretary

For June, 1917.

Throughout June, conditions in regard to the general work of the Home continued to be very similar to those experienced during the previous two or three months.

Since the memorable battle of Vimy Ridge in the first half of April, the Canadians have not been engaged in fighting on an extensive scale, so that Canadian casualties coming from the front during May and June were comparatively light. During the same period, casualties in the British forces have been also light by comparison. There has, consequently, during June, and especially in the latter part of the month, been considerably less necessity for the "acute" hospitals to send their patients prematurely to the convalescent homes, and, therefore, less need for these homes to send out men before they were thoroughly well, to the physical training and convalescent camps. We have recently renewed and confirmed an arrangement with the Military Authorities which, notwithstanding any pressure or any rush in future, will ensure all our patients being allowed to remain in the Home for a minimum period of three weeks, and longer if necessary. This will lessen the constant and unfortunate changing of patients, to which reference was made in the Reports for April and May, and will give the men a fair chance to benefit from a sustained medical, surgical or massage treatment, as well as allowing them to derive much greater benefits from the unique health-giving and home-like conditions at Kingswood.

For the reasons explained in the Report for May, the proportion of our patients in June, still having wounds requiring surgical dressings at least once a day, and some of them oftener, continues to be high—varying from 75% to 80%. Similarly for June, the proportion receiving massage continues low—about 20%. It is probable, however, that as a result of the longer stay of patients in the Home, referred to above, the "dressing" cases will decrease, and the "massage" cases will increase in the near future.

In the Home, strict care and economy continue to be exercised in every department, but the men want for nothing, and notwithstanding the great increase in the prices of every article we require, the cost of running the Home has not so far been greatly increased.

The weather during almost the whole of June was delightfully fine—day after day of bright sunshine, tempered by cool breezes, so that the heat was not oppressive. Our men took full advantage of it, and as soon as the

early morning house-cleaning work was over, their wounds dressed, or massage received, they were out in the grounds. Light gardening work is done by those who are able, while others stroll around, rest under the shady trees, or take part in a game of croquet, bowls, etc.

The grounds and gardens are looking their best. The leaves of trees and shrubs remain fresh and green, as do the well-mown lawns, and the borders are now gay with many-hued summer flowers. The time of our gardeners, and most of the space, is almost exclusively occupied in the production of vegetables and fruit for the patients, but the part known as the "Rose Garden" is the pride of our worthy head gardener. It is now a perfect picture, with its smooth green lawn laid out with beds full of sweet-scented "tea" roses, large blooms, perfect in shape, and of many delicately shaded colors. Wherever one turns in England at this season, in the gardens of cottage, of villa or of mansion, there is a wonderful profusion of roses. Even the most perfervid Canadians are obliged to confess they do grow very fine roses in England.

Regarding the gardens, it may be mentioned that on taking over Kingswood we found the flower-borders fairly well stocked with herbaceous plants, rose-bushes, geraniums, begonias, and the other common bedding plants. The greatly improved appearance of these borders this summer by an increased number and finer quality of plants, has all been accomplished by our capable and economical head gardener, by propagation and by the careful selection of seeds from last year's plants, so that there has been no expenditure of money on flowers or flower seeds.

The large kitchen-garden is now entirely devoted to the production of vegetables and fruit for the patients. The exceptionally severe frost in February did much damage to the winter and early spring crop of vegetables, but for the past month or two everything has been doing well. The men have been getting a regular supply of fresh green vegetables, so necessary for a convalescent's menu, such as cabbage, kale, spinach, leeks, onions, lettuce, radishes, new turnips, carrots, and rhubarb for the Sundays' dinner pies. New potatoes and peas are now ready, too, and soon there will be beans of different kinds, raspberries, and loganberries, with a succession of other vegetables and fruit throughout the summer and autumn.

Our good friend Mr. Bingham has continued to take out parties of our men in his motor car, during his spare time, in the fine, light summer