

Canadian Hospital News

Official Organ of the Granville Canadian Special Hospitals

VOL. 2. No. 5.

RAMSGATE, KENT, AUGUST 12, 1916.

PRICE ONE CENT

The Casualty Clearing Station

By Lt-Col. F. S. L. FORD, C.M.G., C.A.M.C., A.D.M.S.

Before the present war, the most advanced medical unit in the evacuating zone was called a Clearing Hospital, but it was soon seen that the name was hardly appropriate. The immense numbers of sick and wounded which it was called upon to handle, in a very limited time, seemed to take away from it the character of a Hospital, and the name "casualty clearing station" came into use; and, although the stationary phase of operations during the past year has somewhat developed the Hospital idea in clearing stations, still its chief function remains the rapid evacuation of cases. It was originally a Line of Communications Unit, under the I.G.C. but, as the war progressed, it was seen that it was to occupy a more advanced position than had been anticipated, and was, for convenience of administration, placed under the direct control of D.M.S. of the Army, as army troops. While mobilized in the proportion of one clearing station for each division of the field army, it does not necessarily evacuate for any particular division, its location depending largely upon the accommodation to be obtained in buildings, and upon the proximity of the railway. During the present war, at least in Europe, it has been possible to utilise buildings for the accommodation of casualty clearing stations, either wholly or partially, and although a number are still under canvas, during the past winter, huts have replaced most of the tents.

The casualty clearing station at the beginning of the war had no transport attached to it, if we except one riding horse per Officer. These have now been struck off the strength and three 3-ton motor lorries have been detailed for duty, with six drivers. These are supplied from the A.S.C. through the D.M.S. of the Army. The establishment also has been slightly changed by the attachment of an interpreter, three Chaplains, and a Dental Surgeon with assistant. From seven to nine Nursing Sisters have been allotted to each casualty clearing station adding greatly to its efficiency.

With the long period of comparatively stationary warfare, the clearing station has taken on more the character of a Hospital. It is now supplied with beds for the very serious cases, as many as seventy-five of these being seen in one, although the usual number is from twenty-five to fifty. All have very good operating theatres, and a good deal of major surgery is now expected of it. All abdominal cases offering any chance of recovery are operated upon with good results. Some of the clearing stations have thus accumulated a good deal of equipment, far in excess of the twenty-two tons as laid down, and there are to be seen in some of them even electric light plants. The nominal accommodation of two hundred has in some cases been exceeded by four or five times this number, the patients lying upon stretchers, paillasses, the floor or mother earth.

It was thought that the sick and wounded could be brought from the Field Ambulances in the empty supply wagons returning from the front. This was found to be far from satisfactory, and a new medical unit, the motor ambulance convoy, was organised to do this work. This consists roughly of fifty motor ambulance cars, which clear the field ambulances, and evacuate patients from the casualty clearing stations to the ambulance train.

To be continued.

Portia Up-to-Date

With apologies to the Shades of Shakespeare

The dread unwanted SHOWER is not strain'd;
It droppeth, like too frequent rain from heaven,
Upon the face beneath. It is twice blessed
By him that gives, but "cussed" by him that takes:
'Tis iciest to the mightiest; it becomes
A thing you'd gladly dodge for half-a-crown
If bribery would work, it's force and power
Are in the hands of Pollard's majesty.
(Therein doth sit the dread and fear of kings)
Here, then, a whisper to that man himself;
For earthly power doth e'en show likest God's
When "lukewarm" tempers "freezing." Therefore, Walt,
Though, 'orders" be thy plea, consider this,
That in the course of treatment none of us
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
The deed's of mercy. I have spoke thus much
To mitigate the coolness of my douche;
Which if thou follow, from my patient's heart
Sweet songs of gratitude shall rise on high.

—*Kriticos.*

GRANVILLE RIFLE TEAM.

Saturday last our boys suffered defeat at the hands of the King's Liverpools, but made amends by the splendid score of 798 points (possible 800) in the match versus Margate on Monday which they won by 10 points. On Thursday they met and defeated Ramsgate by 41 points, and following that they won with the Anti-aircraft Artillery at St. Peters, winning by 61 points. Not bad for a bunch of cripples, Eh?

Mr. Boyland added to his laurels with another first-class concert on Wednesday. In addition to vocal and instrumental numbers, a most amusing comedieta "Mrs. Hilary Regrets" was given. A worthy addition to the talented Company was Miss. Mitchell, the gifted Australian Soprano, whose splendid voice was greatly appreciated by the boys.

Who was the N.C.O. who was seen walking up to St. George's Church with a lady last Tuesday evening. Are congratulations in order?

Did they enjoy themselves at Margate? We should smile!

All day he struggles manfully,
With fragments good and bad,
Poor over-worked News Editor,
They'll surely drive him mad.

Prom. Flapper—"Have you been out to the Front?"
Damaged Hero—"No, I'm doing this to advertise Bing's
Splints and Crutches"

The Monkey is looking "blue" these days. The Policeman has joined the army. The Beauteous Female is wearing puttees again. The Clowns are busy thinking what they might have done. And the old couple are considering an engagement, for a thousand nights only, at the Palace.