

FOREWORD

It is the purpose of this little book to furnish, as far as circumstances permit, some account of the organization and work of No. 7 (Queen's) Canadian General Hospital.

Many friends in Canada are interested in the work of this Hospital, and from the beginning they have given it generous support. It is hoped that the pages that follow will in some degree prove that their interest and support have been a blessing to thousands, and that those who have been the recipients of their generosity have not been unappreciative.

This is not the time nor the place to attempt to deal with the scientific aspect of Base Hospital work, but something has been written to show the general reader what kind of cases are received and how they are dealt with.

Those connected with the Hospital are disposed to think that to some extent the unit has accomplished the work that it set out to do. As will be seen in the subsequent pages, there has been a steady growth in the extent of the service that the unit has been called upon to render. As No. 5 Canadian Stationary Hospital it left Canada in May, 1915, with an establishment sufficient to provide for two hundred patients. Shortly after arriving in England the accommodation was doubled, and the added personnel were immediately raised in Kingston, joining the unit in July. On August 1st we embarked at Southampton for the Mediterranean, and on August 14th, at Cairo, a 600-bed Hospital was opened and run for eight months. In February, 1915, authority was given to change to General Hospital size, the additional personnel again being recruited in Kingston by Dean Connell. At the close of the Gallipoli campaign we were moved to France and conducted a 1,040-bed Hospital under canvas during the Somme offensive. With the approach of winter the present site was taken over. Here there is a total accommodation for 2,300, and on more than one occasion there has been a full Hospital.

While prophecies are always hazardous, and especially so in war-time, it would appear that the end has come both to the wanderings and to the repeated enlargements.

Nov. 15th, 1917.