

Second Annual Report

THE end of March brings with it the termination of our second year's work at the Home. During the early months of the first year, our accommodation and the number of patients gradually increased, so that in these constantly changing conditions, no very fixed routine could be established, and as some of the features of the Home were different from those in other hospitals of which our staff had had experience, the way had to be felt cautiously and, in some respects, experimentally. But by degrees, and as a result of experience, all the details and the arrangements for the general working and routine of the Home were established, so that now during this second year they have worked along smoothly and satisfactorily.

Since Kingswood was opened, two years ago, no fewer than 2,487 patients have been received: during the first year ending 31st March, 1917, the number received was 1,481, and during this second year ending 31st March, 1918, the number was 1,006 patients. The smaller number this year is due to the patients now being allowed to make a longer stay here, as arranged with the Army Medical Authorities.

As explained in previous reports, during the first year, and especially during the winter and early spring of 1917, the pressure was so great, due on the one hand to the limited accommodation in the "active treatment" hospitals, and on the other to the need for men who had recovered from their wounds to be hurried back to their bases, to ultimately form drafts to re-fill the gaps in their regiments at the front, that patients were in many cases unable to remain long enough in this Home to get sufficient benefit. But the arrangements made with the Army Medical Authorities last year have enabled the men to make a considerably longer stay here, so that they have been able to derive full benefit from their surgical or massage treatment as well as from the general health-giving and recuperative features for which Kingswood is so specially well equipped.

In this connection, the system under which we work may be recalled. The Overseas Canadian Army Medical Corps is administered from Headquarters in London by the Director of Medical Service, now Surgeon-General Foster, controlling a numerous personnel of doctors, nurses and orderlies in the various hospitals in France and England. Kingswood is regarded as an independent institution as concerns its general administration, and is subject to the Canadian Army Medical Authorities only in

the matters of the discipline of the patients and their medical examination, classifying and consequent disposal. In these matters we work under the Canadian Convalescent Hospital at Bromley, Kent, about five miles distant. That hospital acts as a clearing station for convalescent Canadians in the South London area, and all our patients reach us and are discharged from Bromley. One of the medical staff at Bromley acts as M.O. for Kingswood, and pays a visit daily to the men here, or oftener if required. We also have periodic visits of medical and surgical specialists to consult with the medical officer on any difficult cases, and there are also weekly examinations of the men by a Travelling Medical Board, who classify the men and decide as to their disposal at the end of their stay here. There are in France a number of Canadian Field and Base Hospitals for the treatment of the slightly wounded and giving first aid to the more seriously wounded, and there are also in England a number of Canadian hospitals for the treatment of men who fall sick in the Canadian training camps in this country. But almost all the seriously wounded Canadian soldiers from France are sent to the British "active treatment" hospitals in England or Scotland. The large Ontario Military Hospital at Orpington, near London, is almost the only purely Canadian "Active Treatment" Hospital receiving wounded men direct from France. In the British "Active Treatment" Hospitals,



Kingswood Entrance.

A happy group going out for their afternoon's walk.