

FIELD HOSPITALS AND CLIMATE IN THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

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I am aware that the advantage of field hospitals has long been recognized, and in bringing the subject before you in connection with the climate of the North-West, I do so feeling we owe so much to those two factors for the more than ordinary success attending the wounded during the recent campaign.

In establishing a field hospital in Battleford, we found it very easy indeed, in a country so well adapted to camp life, to select a site. We pitched our *marquee* on the south bank of the Northern Saskatchewan, as well removed from the fort and little town as safety would allow,—a beautiful slope down to the swiftly-flowing river in front, a vast extent of prairie behind, with a turf dry, smooth and clean, a more perfect spot could not be desired. The season also favored us—May and June,—when spring, with all its freshness, was passing into early summer, when the cold was not felt, and the heat was not oppressive. The condition of the ground, the locality, the season, everything nature could supply was there to make our hospital a model one and enhance the comfort of the patients, who, being well supplied with cots, mattresses and blankets, and with plenty of good dressers, hospital orderlies and cooks, had their wants regularly attended to, and their wounds kept clean and in good condition.

Before referring to any practical illustrations of the advantages of a field hospital, I wish to make a remark or two about the *climate*, and in this connection I cannot do better than give a few notes taken from observations made by B. F. Brown, Esq., B.A., of the "Red Cross Ambulance Corps," during the month of May and part of June. He gives the following

Temperature.

Average temperature at 9 a.m. during month of May, 55°F.

" " " 2 p.m. " " " 66°.

" " " 9 p.m. " " " 48½°.

During the first week in May, we had nightly from 6° to 7° of