

obvious. In other cases the patients had had the initial stages of treatment carried out in Field Ambulance or Casualty Clearing Station. For a period of four or five weeks the Somme Battle left its mark upon our activities. After that our convoys came less frequently, work being carried on without the sense of acute pressure. Taken as an index of our capacity to meet the calls upon us, the experience of the period just discussed afforded grounds for satisfaction. Upon all branches of the staff a test had been imposed. A failure at any point would have had effects far beyond the point of its occurrence. The prompt and orderly disposal of patients to the wards, with the acquisition of name, regiment, religion, etc., as he passed the Admitting Officer was the first step in the procedure of admission. Once in the ward where treatment was to be carried on, the removal of the soiled uniform, the bath, the first examination of dressings and wounds were undertaken. The subsequent treatment depended upon the patient's condition. In many cases the use of the X-Ray and operation proved necessary; in others, investigation through the Laboratory; and, just as in a civil hospital, the facilities of the various departments were utilized in any combination required to establish diagnosis and promote treatment. During the busy period in July, fifty operations per day was a common record, with seventy examinations with X-Ray, and a still higher number of investigations in the Laboratory. In the wards innumerable dressings were done, splints applied, various details of treatment and matters of diet arranged. Some patients with trivial wounds would be sent from Hospital to a Convalescent Depot; others, with more severe wounds, were sent to England; a large proportion had their treatment continued in Hospital for a period of three or four weeks. By such stages, then, work was carried on. The picture was ever changing. At one time ambulances were stringing in bearing sick and wounded; at another men were being congregated on stretchers at a central point for transfer to England; and always there were the long rows of wards with neatly aligned beds along either side, each with its occupant, with Nurses and Orderlies pursuing their beneficent tasks.

Throughout these shifting scenes of Hospital life and work there ran a process of development. The task of improving facilities for treatment was never ending. New departures in regard to the admission of patients and the keeping of records were frequently made. To establish conditions favourable to the greatest efficiency was an ideal continuously kept in view.

The first Operating Theatre in use in our Hospital was established in a marquee. The floor, of thick tarpaulin, lent itself well to thorough cleaning; large petroleum-burning lamps, comprising part of the original equipment, supplied excellent light; portable sterilizers were in use, and all the requirements of science were met to a degree that only experience would lead one to credit. An important development occurred, however, when, on July 5th, the Operating Theatre was established in the special Hut, in association with the X-Ray Department and Laboratory. This Hut, further, afforded accommodation for forty beds, which were utilized for Surgical cases of special importance.

The organization of work, as carried out under instruction from the Officer Commanding, involved division of Hospital facilities into a Medical and a Surgical Section. The two classes of cases were thus separated as far as this was possible. Separate provision was also made for cases requiring isolation.

Within the wards themselves the process of betterment in facilities was going on steadily. The floors were continuously being made more level. Cupboards for dressings and instruments were provided; small office facilities were established; and the invaluable Red Cross extras lent much to increased comfort and beauty.

The general appearance of the Hospital—a consideration of importance—reached its state of highest development in August. The paths and roadways had become