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## EDITORIAL

The impression of the first Canadian anniversary of Ypres that we have just observed, is not readily put away in comfortable seclusion till the coming of another spring—as with other anniversaries, for we find ourselves still in quiet contemplation of those basic ideals for which this grim sacrifice was willingly and cheerfully rendered.

In precipitating this mighty war, the German mind had said in substance,—“We are a peculiar people, a chosen people; the most enlightened in this world. Therefore, it is our imperative destiny; yes, our solemn duty, to expand, to overrun, and to crush, if need be, any and all opposition to our divinely appointed mission as the Sovereign people of this world. The world over, our Kultur must be implanted! Witness, how, in the biological world where the fittest only survive, that mightiest law,—Might alone is Right—holds sovereign sway. We, of all the peoples of this earth,—we, a peculiar people, divinely segregated from the lesser nations, are alone chosen to bear the torch of Kultur, the Holy Grail of German achievement. Has not a greater-than-Moses said so; our own Bernhardt?”

Thus they make God sponsor for those deeds which His Son in every breath of his lovely but lowly life in speech and in example, condemned.

“Love thy neighbour” was the keynote of all his teachings and to this day scores of millions of people in their various ways are living by this dictum. In fact one may translate it into such popular language of the day as, “play the game”—that golden rule of every good sportsman—of the man who so compassionately regards his weaker neighbour that he could never take an unfair advantage; could never do him injury. It is this same good sportsmanship that has held our arms unblemished from deeds of sordid savour.

An entire absence of the same good sportsmanship has permitted the reincarnation of the shameless Hun in the person of the modern German, who, to-day, would gladly burden the world with the ancient Hun's Kultur.

With the passing of years, the underlying, basic purpose of the Canadian sacrifice at Ypres will ever shine more clearly, until one day people will say—“they fought gloriously and gave life

itself with a smile, to the end that the weaker neighbour should still live in freedom, and continue to Play the Game as he had always done.”

## FIELD AMBULANCE

The primary functions of a field ambulance is to maintain the fighting efficiency of the combatant troops at the highest possible pitch by the removal of all wounded and sick from their lines as rapidly as possible.

It is the link between the regimental aid post (dressing station and the casualty clearing station (clearing hospital) which is usually located at some town in the rear.

With the development of trench warfare the field ambulance, like all other units, has become more or less stationary. Although it is a mobile unit able and expected to participate in the most rapid advance of an individual brigade or division as a whole. It is a divisional unit but it is usually attached to a brigade. It is composed of three equal sub-divisions (companies) each complete in itself and capable of acting independently when necessity arises.

Its usual disposition is as follows—the main dressing station is situated adjoining the brigade reserve billets with the pounders as neighbours. 60-The advanced dressing station is usually nested in amongst the 18-pounders, which surround it on all sides.

In ordinary times the work is all at night, because the wounded cannot be brought back from the front line trenches until darkness supervenes and because the ambulances themselves are easily distinguishable and would thus expose our position and attract heavy shell fire from the enemy. With the approach of darkness however the motor ambulance, the orderlies, the stretcher bearers, move up and get in touch with the regimental aid post and the wounded and sick are evacuated back to the main dressing station, including those who have come in through the day into the advanced dressing station itself. There their wounds are dressed, hot meals are served, and the patients made comfortable for the night. In the morning, Red Cross Convoys clear the patients back to the casualty clearing station, with the possible exception of bad head or abdominal wounds.

In times of stress as at Ypres the work is ceaseless day and night, the

regimental stretcher bearers practically disappeared, so that the ambulance stretcher bearers cleared direct from the firing line back to the main dressing station, working every minute of the twenty-four hours, and for a great part of the time under rifle and shell fire. As many as 1,250 wounded were thus dressed and evacuated in one day. The dangerous nature of the work may be gathered from the fact that four advanced dressing stations were destroyed in succession between Wieltge and St. Julien, by shell fire and the main dressing station also received similar treatment.

It was found advisable in times of comparative peace to have one of the three field ambulances to act as a divisional rest station, here all ordinary sick and slightly wounded who will be fit for the front again within a few days, are kept and attended, thus saving a heavy wastage of men urgently needed in the firing line.

Conditions may alter at any moment with the cessation of trench warfare. The field ambulance will then have as its main ideal “to clear and to be cleared” so as never to become stationary and thus lose touch with the brigade or it serves, no matter where it may go or how rapid its march.

Considering the novel conditions of modern warfare and the fact that a field ambulance had never previously been mobilized in the history of Canada, the work done by these units is worthy of very high praise. The strain is great, because the work is ceaseless. Even in the quiet times a constant stream of medical cases are attended throughout the day and the wounded are brought in during the night. As a general average 2,500 cases a month are admitted and receive the necessary surgical and medical treatment and are either returned to their lines or sent back to the C.C.S., the next link in the line.

## Flag Day in Ramsgate

Saturday last will long be remembered. Sometime ago the Royal Society of Saint George decided to appeal to Public Authorities throughout the Kingdom, to celebrate St. George's Day this year, by holding “Flag Days” on behalf of local war funds. In Ramsgate the idea was adopted with much enthusiasm, and doubtless the money raised, will represent a sum of