

## Obituary

The saddest episode in the history of the unit was the "passing" of our Second in Command, Lieut.-Colonel Hugh Ramsey Duff, on February 8th, 1916. Colonel Duff was one of the senior officers in the C.A.M.C. in Canada, and occupied honourable positions in that branch of His Majesty's Forces.

He served with distinction during the Boer War in South Africa, and on his return to Canada rose in his chosen profession until he became the A.D.M.S. of No. 3 Military Division, with his headquarters at Kingston, Ontario.

When the present war began Colonel Duff immediately volunteered for Overseas Service, and was attached to a Battalion of the Eastern Ontario Regiment. Unfortunately, first a riding accident, and later an attack of pneumonia, delayed the realization of his wish to go Overseas. In the fall of 1915, however, he was appointed Second in Command of No. 5 Stationary Hospital. He proceeded to Egypt and joined his unit in October of the same year. To this unit his wide military experience and his sane judgment of men proved of inestimable value, and the fact of his illness (the seeds of which remained from his previous sickness) and his subsequent death was received with profound regret by all who had been associated with him in the work of the Hospital.

The spirit of the man was revealed in his own words. Someone suggested to him that, considering the nature of his previous illness and his unequalled knowledge of the military medical situation in Canada, it would have been better had he stayed at home and accepted the position offered to him of the Chairmanship of the Pensions Board. He replied: "Being an Officer in the Permanent Army I would rather die Overseas than live in comfort at home when my country is at war." He ever tempered justice with mercy, and had a far-seeing charity that enabled him correctly to appreciate the viewpoints of both officers and men. He was the ideal "Officer and Gentleman."

His funeral was an impressive ceremony to all who took part in it. Followed by the members of his unit, his body was carried to its resting-place in the little Anglo-Egyptian Cemetery that nestles in the heart of the great Moslem City of Cairo, and there, thousands of miles from the beloved country for which he both lived and died, he sleeps beneath the shadows of countless minarets raised in the honour of an alien faith.

Not since the demise of the late Lieut.-Colonel H. R. Duff in Egypt, during February, 1916, had there been a break in our ranks caused by death until Nursing Sister Etta Sparks journeyed into the "Great Beyond" on August 20th, 1917.

After five years' nursing in an American Hospital, Sister Sparks joined the Queen's Hospital unit when it was first mobilized in Kingston. Proceeding Overseas she served for a few months in France, attached for duty to No. 1 Canadian General Hospital. In August, 1915, she accompanied her unit to Egypt. From that date she never missed duty for a day through sickness, until, a few weeks before her death in the Kitchener Hospital, Brighton, she was sent to the Villa Tina suffering from the complaint that proved fatal.

A faithful and competent Nurse, she had proved more than equal to all the vicissitudes and emergencies that had arisen in very strenuous periods of military duty. She was sincerely liked, both by her co-workers, whose burdens she was ever ready to assume, and by her patients, whose wants she was eager to anticipate. The sympathy of a host of friends in the unit goes out to her sorrowing parents and family in Canada.