

# Report of the Resident Secretary

For August and September, 1918.

During the months of August and September there has been a continuance of the conditions prevalent in most Canadian hospitals in England for the past six months, i.e., our accommodation has never been fully occupied. On an average, 25% of our beds have been vacant during the past two months.

After seven or eight months of comparative inactivity except for trench raids, the Canadians on the 8th August and succeeding days, to the surprise and discomfort of the Germans, took an important and most successful part in the great Battle of Amiens. After a sweeping victory and achieving in that Sector all the objectives desired by the High Command, the Canadians were again transferred quickly and secretly northwards to the part of the line east of Arras. Wherever there is stiff fighting to be done, the Canadians are ever to the fore, and to them was assigned the difficult and honorable task of taking a share along with Scottish and Naval troops in breaking through the Drocourt-Queant part of the great Hindenburg Line, which the Germans considered to be impregnable. Here again the Canadians' courage, perseverance, discipline and patient training of staff, regimental officers and men, met with complete success. Naturally such severe fighting cannot be carried on without heavy casualties, but fortunately the losses have been small by comparison with those suffered in previous great battles, or when compared with the far-reaching results secured. Another favorable feature is that the wounds are less serious than in the old days of murderous German shell-fire at Ypres and Vimy, being now mostly caused by rifle or machine-gun bullets, which heal more quickly than the lacerated wounds and shattered bones resulting from shell splinters. The wounded usually take several weeks passing through the "active treatment" hospitals until they reach the convalescent stage, but the men from the August battles are now arriving at Kingswood, and from now onwards for some months, our beds are likely to be kept filled.

Since Kingswood was opened, we have worked as an auxiliary or annex of the Canadian Convalescent Hospital at Bromley (Kent), situated about five miles distant, as explained in Bulletin No. 17. At the end of August, the Hospital at Bromley was closed, and from the

1st September we have been working as an auxiliary of the No. 16 Canadian General (Ontario) Hospital of Orpington (Kent), about twelve miles distant. This is a large "active treatment" hospital, having now about 2,100 beds. Instead of receiving patients as hitherto, via Bromley as a clearing station, from "active treatment" hospitals, both Imperial and Canadian all over Great Britain, our patients will now be entirely confined to those who have had the "active" part of their treatment at Orpington. The patients received from Orpington during September have been in a more advanced stage of their convalescence than those whom we used to receive through Bromley, and they do not require so much attention in the way of dressings, the dressings being less numerous as well as less serious. On the average, about 50% of the patients now in the Home require dressings to be done, and about 25% are receiving massage.

The weather was good on the whole in August, but September was exceptionally cold and wet; whenever it was fine enough, however, our patients have continued to get out in the grounds for walking exercise, and those who were well enough took a share in the agreeable and health-giving work of keeping the paths, flower borders and grounds in good shape. They have also continued to receive invitations to a number of outings, whilst the never-failing motor-bus rides to different parts of London and the suburbs, provide healthy recreation for many of the men on the fine afternoons.

Now that the evenings are drawing in, we shall commence our weekly concerts, at the beginning of October, and in addition to these there will be various indoor games and competitions arranged to keep the men agreeably occupied.

The moist summer has favored our vegetable garden which continues to yield a very plentiful supply of all kinds of green vegetables, sufficient daily for all the men's needs. The fruit crop, however, has been poor, and fruit of all kinds is scarce and very dear to buy.

The principal articles of food are now controlled by the Government and weekly rations fixed, both for civilians and patients in military hospitals. The articles now rationed in this way are meat, lard, butter and margarine,