

## OUR HOSPITAL.

### A SHORT HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION.

By CAPTAIN W. H. FOX, Quartermaster.

IN ORDER that the dear kind people of the Province of Ontario may form some idea of the priceless gift they have given to the Mother Country, I will try to give a short history of the Hospital and where it is situ-



COLONEL THE HON. R. A. PYNE,  
The man who built the Hospital.

ated, and those who are responsible for its wonderful location and buildings.

It is just one year ago this month since Colonel the Hon. R. A. Pyne and Major James came to England to supervise the building of the Ontario Military Hospital. The first duty was to select an architect, and after considering many, the choice fell on Mr. Chas. F. Skipper, of Cambridge, who had before and has since built large hospitals for the War Office.



LIEUT.-COL. D. W. MACPHERSON,  
Officer Commanding.

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Next came the selecting of the site. Col. Pyne applied to the War Office for a list of various sites. The first one selected was on Ely-road, Cambridge. Plans were prepared, and steps had been taken to commence building, when it was discovered that the sewage overflow of the City of Cambridge was in close proximity.

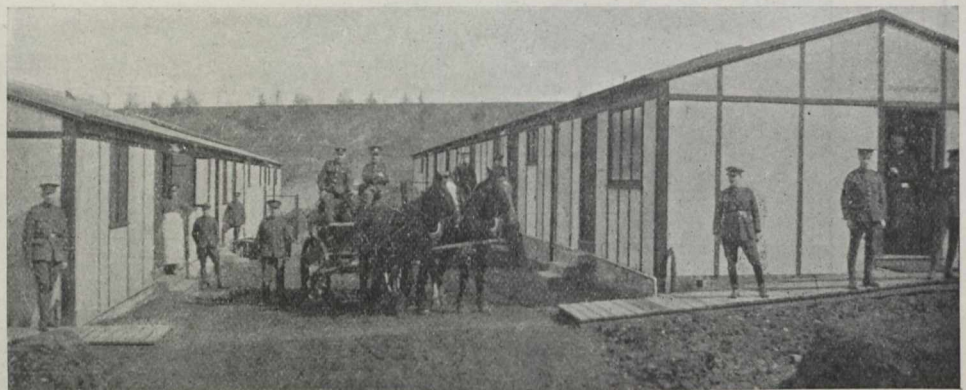
The next site looked at was at Monk's Horton, near Folkestone, but on inspection it was found to be too far from the station, and had not the facilities for so large a hospital. Many other sites were looked at, but all had their drawbacks.

Then Orpington was suggested, and on making thorough enquiries as to the water supply, the sewerage system, the estate known as the Boundary Estate was chosen. I may say at this point that the water supply is the best in England. Coming from the chalk hills, it is pure and clear,

and has a pressure at the tap of one hundred pounds. The sewerage system is the best, and the Hospital has perfect drainage, which is very essential.

On the estate is a gentleman's residence, called the Boundary House. This Colonel Pyne had furnished so that he might always be on the job, and on October 3rd, 1915, Colonel and Mrs. Pyne and Major James came to reside in Orpington, and from that day the Hospital started to grow. Orpington is a most charming and healthful district, placed amidst rural surroundings and giving the requisite change and rest so essential to the wounded soldier.

It was well on in October before a start was made on the actual buildings, as there were many difficulties to be overcome in the way of getting materials, and Colonel Pyne and Mr. Skipper had to make many trips to the War Office to get authority to pur-



Quartermaster's Stores and Staff.

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chase certain supplies, and then often when they were loaded on the train they would be commandeered by some military authority. After many of these vexatious occurrences, the materials began to arrive on the site, and on February 19th, 1916, the hospital was officially opened by the Right Hon. Bonar Law.

If you will now refer to the large picture, I will endeavour to explain the buildings as they follow. The first small building on the left is the sergeants' and men's cook-house. Here the meals for 250 are prepared daily. It is perfectly arranged with steam cookers and soup kettles and ranges. The next is the sergeants' mess and men's dining-room, also the sergeants' sleeping rooms. The next two are the men's quarters. Here the men are provided with spring beds, white sheets and pyjamas, wash and bath rooms, hot and cold water—in fact, all the comforts of home; quite a contrast to what was experienced by those of us who have been in France and Belgium, where a blanket and

4 tons of sugar,  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton of tea, 2 tons of butter, 33,000 eggs, 5,518 gallons of milk, 500 chicken. Laundry bill, £192.

In the Clothing Department a large staff are kept busy fitting out the patients that are able to be sent to the convalescent hospitals. Most of them come to us in blankets on stretchers, or with clothes all stained and torn, and when they leave have to be given a new and complete kit from boots to cap, including razor, shaving brush, tooth brush, hair brush, clothes brush, knife, fork and spoon, clasp knife, and many other small articles; all these have to be entered on the proper forms and signed for.

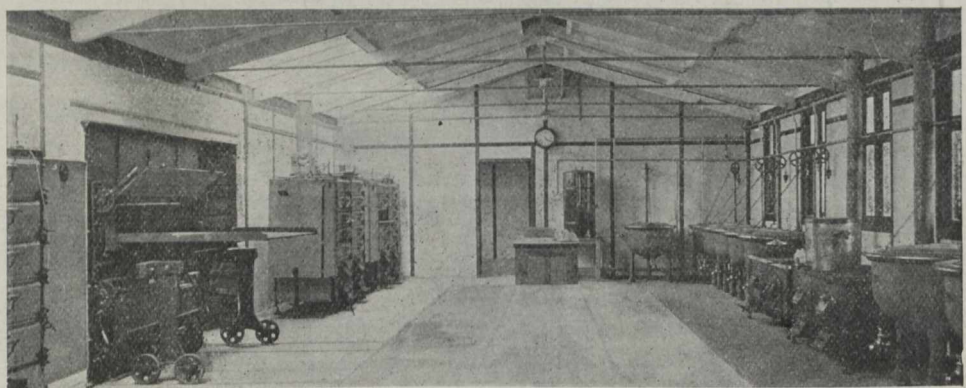
The next small building is the Pathological Laboratory; it is perfectly equipped, and is under the direction of an expert pathologist. The next in line is the chapel and mortuary. The next is the central heating and power house and disinfecting chamber. In the boiler room are three large boilers for the heating of all the buildings and the heating of the water for bathing, etc.; also steam for the numerous cookers. In the engine room are three engines and generators for supplying the light and power; also an emergency set of storage batteries which will light the whole hospital for ten hours should the engines break down.

In the disinfecting chamber is a large steam sterilizer in which are placed all the

patients' clothes and all soiled linen from the wards. From there the linen goes to the laundry, and the clothes to the pack stores, where they are placed in racks with the patient's name and number on them. When the patient is well enough to be transferred, he brings his receipt and gets his old clothes. The sergeant of the clothing stores inspects them, and any article that is worn is replaced, and in most cases a new kit is issued, as stated before.

The next building on the left is the main kitchen. Here all the patients' meals are cooked; the system of feeding patients in a hospital of this size is quite elaborate, and entails a lot of clerical work for the Medical Officer, Nursing Sister, and Quartermaster.

The Medical Officer, on visiting the ward in the morning, marks on the chart what each patient is to have for the next day; the Nursing Sister has then to make a summary of her ward, stating how many are on ordinary, fish, chicken, or milk diets; this



The main Kitchen, showing the soup kettles on the right; the meat and bread ovens on the left.

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corner in the cow stable were luxury.

The next two on the left with the motor lorries are the quartermaster's stores. In these stores are kept the groceries, the meats, the hardware, the linen and clothing, and other things too numerous to mention. Here the daily rations for 1,300 patients and staff are weighed and issued. The eatable commodities for a general hospital number some 200 different articles. These must always be kept in stock and accounted for to the ounce. The main commodities issued in the month of July included 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons of meat, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons of bacon, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons of bread,

sheet is then sent to the Quartermaster at ten in the morning, who checks it to see that all totals are correct and that they agree with the list of rations sent to him by the Adjutant. The sheets are then passed to the Sergeant Steward, who makes out four summaries. The first one is made for the Chief Cook, telling the total number of each diet for whom he has to cook and to which servery the diets go (these serveries I will speak of later). The second one shows all the extras that are to go to each ward, such as eggs, milk, wines, liquors, Bovril, etc. The