

recognized disorder known as Soldier's Heart, in which symptoms of a more or less transient cardiac exhaustion without evidence of organic disease, form the predominant feature. The need of such patients for special study and treatment, and the evident possibility of their rehabilitation under suitable conditions, led to a demand for an investigation. This was opened by the Medical Research Committee of the National Insurance Act, on the initiative of Sir Alfred Keogh in the autumn of 1915, and was entrusted in the first place to Sir James Mackenzie (1), who with Dr. R. McD. Wilson (2), opened a discussion on this subject before the Royal Society of Medicine on January 18th, 1916, and reported the results of observations made by himself in collaboration with Dr. Wilson on 400 cases. He pointed out that the large class of patients under consideration differ essentially from the subjects of organic heart disease both in the milder grade of symptoms, the more favorable prognosis and the form of treatment indicated. In the latter connection he laid down the important principle that complete rest was not advisable except in the early stages, and that fresh air, graduated exercises, recreation and cheerfulness take an important part in the rehabilitation of the patient, so that officers should be sent off on golfing or fishing tours, and light games in out-door surroundings should be provided for the private soldiers, with the one injunction to both that such occupations be carried on only to the point of pleasurable enjoyment and never to fatigue. In addition he stated that the proper investigation and treatment of such cases required the provision of a special hospital with complete equipment and in suitable surroundings.

These views were shared by Sir Clifford Allbutt and Sir William Osler who, with Sir James Mackenzie, organized the new Hospital, and with Major J. C. Meakins and Captain F. C. Cotton of Montreal, and Captain Parkinson were members of its organizing staff. An article in the Times at this time may be abstracted thus: "Sir Alfred Keogh (Director General of the Medical Forces), decided to open a special hospital of a very special kind, and recognizing the value of a bright and bracing situation chose the Military Hospital at Hampstead for the new Heart Hospital. It is fully equipped with bacteriological laboratory, electro-cardiograph with wired connections to the wards, orthodiagraph, and X-ray installment. The Mackenzie ink polygraph is in active operation and individual assistants are giving their whole time to the study of vasomotor reflexes, demographic and precise orthodiagraphic cardiac tracings, exercises,