

## RED CROSS

### WORK IN THE HOSPITAL

This Hospital has been exceptionally fortunate in having as its source of supplies, not only the Red Cross Society in general, but a particular branch of that organization that had for its incentive the general desire to serve humanity and relieve distress, and, in addition, a special incentive based on the bond of a common Alma Mater, together with the personal element of friendship and acquaintance. The result has been a liberal supply of not only the regular Red Cross Hospital supplies, but donations of many articles that do not fall under the regular catalogue of materials supplied by the Red Cross, such as Phonographs, Christmas Stockings, etc.

Since mobilization we have received upwards of 2,200 cases of supplies through the Kingston Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society, while many other donations have come to the Hospital or to individuals in the unit for Hospital use, direct from local branches in Canada. We are indebted to Canadian local organizations, from Windsor to Ottawa, for making it possible for the Kingston Branch to deal so liberally with us; and we are especially indebted to the Kingston Branch for not only having made very large contributions themselves, but for having undertaken the repacking and shipping of practically all the supplies we receive from Canada.

Many other organizations have come to our aid, such as the Canadian Field Comforts Commission, the Canadian War Contingents' Association, who have made generous gifts for the comfort of the men of our own unit; and such Voluntary Organizations as the Wimbledon War Workers' Association and the Liverpool Service League—all of whom have contributed very largely to the welfare of both patients and staff. Special mention, too, must be made of the very large donations of fruit and general supplies received almost daily by the Matron from the General Canadian Red Cross Society. We have been fortunate, too, in receiving the gift of an Automobile from Mr. Bermingham, of Kingston; an Ambulance from Davis and Son, Kingston; and another from Napanee. Although we are not now allowed to use these, while they were in our possession they rendered splendid service. And in addition to all this, subscribers to the General Fund and the Fund for extra comforts and equipment for individual beds have made it possible for us to obtain anything that was really necessary for the comfort and well-being of patients in general and any individual case in particular.

In many cases we have found that the difference between bare necessity and "the little extra" means a difference far out of proportion to the amount involved.

"A little more, and oh! how much!  
A little less, what worlds away!"

The going of the second mile in this case means far more than multiplying the first mile by two. Who can estimate, for example, the amount of pleasure created by the gift of the two large Phonographs by the Kingston Society, and of the one from St. Andrew's, Lindsay, or the gifts of Christmas Stockings so largely contributed towards by Kingston, Renfrew, Belleville, Napanee and Ottawa? We could quote from dozens of patients' letters we have censored testifying to the degree of pleasure that these gifts created. We can recall many examples of the far-reaching effect of such gifts. For example, a wounded and dysentery-wasted soldier in Hospital at Abbassia, Egypt, on receiving his well-filled Christmas Stocking on Christmas morning, put it aside, untouched. When asked why he did this, he answered, "I am going to send it to my children in England; I have nothing else to send them