

Report of the Resident Secretary.

August and September, 1917.

The months of August and September at the Home were very much the same as for the previous four or five months.

After the battles of Arras and Vimy Ridge in April, the Canadian forces were not engaged in any heavy fighting throughout the summer except for local engagements to the south-west of Lens, so that there were comparatively few Canadian casualties during that period and less pressure on the hospitals and convalescent homes. But on the 15th August and the following days, the Canadians took a great and glorious part in the attack on the famous Hill 70 and on the western suburbs of Lens. Thanks to our now preponderating artillery and air service, their casualties, although fortunately not so heavy as in previous battles, proportionately to the number engaged and the results achieved, were still considerable. As a result, we commenced receiving some of these men early in September and from then to the end of the month our accommodation was always taxed to its utmost capacity.

The new arrangement allowing men to make a longer stay in the Home continues to work very satisfactorily and the men are able in this way to derive much greater benefit.

The proportion of dressing cases and massage cases amongst our patients continues about the same, viz., from 55% to 60% of dressing cases and 40% of massage cases out of our total number of patients. Lately we have been receiving a number of "jaw cases," *i.e.*, men who have been wounded in the jaws and lower parts of the face. There is a specially equipped department for the active treatment of such cases at the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, and the very skilful operations performed there, and the cures which have resulted, are wonderful. Men have arrived at the Orpington Hospital with parts of the jaw, roof of the mouth, nose or cheek torn away by shell or bullet wounds, and in many cases have been almost entirely cured by having the shattered bone removed and replaced, as well as by skin-grafting and other skilful operations. They are then sent on to Kingswood to complete their convalescence, where their wounds receive dressings if necessary and massage treatment.

The weather was rather broken and showery during the greater part of August and September, but in the latter part of September we had a fine dry spell, which enabled our men to get out and about in the grounds and make short excursions in the neighborhood. This

improved spell of weather likewise enabled the farmers to complete their harvesting operations, so that the bulk of the grain crop in Great Britain has been secured in good condition; potatoes and other root crops are above the average, and for these reasons, as well as on account of the decreasing menace of the German submarine campaign, the prospects for a sufficient supply of food stuffs for the coming winter are now much more promising. The new Food Controller's regulations have had the effect of slightly reducing the prices of meat and bread, but owing to the world shortage in food stuffs and the want of the necessary ocean transport, the prices of all other necessary articles of food continue to rise. The gardens at Kingswood have done exceptionally well this summer and consequently we have had a sufficient and regular supply daily of fresh vegetables of all kinds for the men. The fruit trees have also done well.

Our men continue to be invited out to a number of entertainments of various kinds, the chief of which during the two months have been as follows:

On the afternoon of 2nd August, 20 men were invited to an excellent concert and tea at the St. Barnabas Hall, Dulwich, as the guests of the "Eucryl" Company, who have a factory in the neighborhood. The entertainment was arranged and the invitations for our men came through our good friends, Messrs. R. B. Leech and Marshall.

On the afternoon of 3rd August, 35 men were invited by the Port of London Authority to another trip by steamer on the River Thames with tea on board. This most interesting and instructive outing was greatly enjoyed by all.

On the afternoon of 7th August, 20 men went to the Scala Theatre by invitation of the Canadian Red Cross Society to see the very fine and up-to-date moving pictures for which this theatre is famous.

A second party of 20 men again visited the Scala Theatre on the afternoon of the 9th August.

On the afternoon of 11th August, 10 men went to a Garden Party and Tea at the home of a neighbor, Mrs. Martin, Tulse Hill, who has on several occasions kindly entertained our men.

On the 15th August, there was a route march through the West-End of London of