

because of his history. He was rescued at sea in 1915, having been on board a torpedoed Danish ship. He was landed in France, where he found his present master. Santa Claus proved himself to be genuinely witty to the extent of keeping everyone in a state of laughter, while he distributed his much appreciated gifts. He did not seem to forget anyone.

When he had finished, a real Christmas supper was ready for us in the Dining-room. It was equal to the dinner in quality and was partaken of with equal relish.

Thus we spent a Merry and real Happy Christmas at the Massey-Harris Convalescent Home.

## Report of the Resident Secretary

For November and December, 1916

During the month of November, the accommodation at Kingswood has continued to be taxed to its utmost capacity. The Canadians, who took such a noble part in the desperate fighting on the Somme in September and October, have not, since that period, been engaged in any very serious assaults, and consequently there was a comparatively small number of Canadian wounded sent from France to England during November. But those wounded during September and October were being discharged from the "Acute" hospitals during November, to finish their treatment in the convalescent homes, so that the flow of this class of patient continued steadily. No sooner was a batch of men discharged from Kingswood for return to duty with their regiments, or for special treatment in one or other of the "specialist" hospitals, or to return to Canada for final discharge, than their places were taken by new men from the "acute" hospitals. The places were never vacant for more than a few hours.

These new arrivals experience a welcome change and great relief in the life at Kingswood. While they are in the "acute" hospitals they are more or less confined to their wards, if not to bed, the military discipline is strict, they are seldom or never allowed out, and have comparatively few opportunities for amusement or recreation. Although the medical and surgical treatment and general arrangements for the comfort and well-being of patients in the "acute" hospitals, are in most cases very good, there is, in the majority of them, little to relieve the deadly monotony of military hospital life, especially for men after they reach the convalescent stage, and are able to move about again, who have been accustomed to the free open-air life of the North-West, and crave to go out and renew their interests in life, but cannot. To such men, Kingswood, with its comfortable, home-like atmosphere and surroundings, and the arrangements for providing healthy and interesting recreations, all come as a very welcome relief. The results are shown in the excellent progress made by the men

towards renewed health, the rarity of abuse of the freedom or privileges extended to them, their continued good behaviour, and grateful appreciation of all that is done for them.

The weather all through the month was exceptionally wet, cold and foggy, and on more than one occasion some of our men had their first experience of nearly getting lost in a real, thick, old-time London fog! The conditions were not very favorable, therefore, for outdoor work or recreations, but whenever the weather permitted a number went out for rides through the interesting parts of London in our motor car, while the more able-bodied were able to take exercise in the grounds, do some light gardening work, go out in the afternoons to visit their friends, or find recreation at a picture-show or theatre (if their scanty purses permit).

The long, dark winter evenings make the comfortable, well-heated recreation rooms greatly appreciated. There is a plentiful and varied assortment of books, magazines, Canadian and British papers, also games such as billiards, chess, draughts, dominoes, etc., to help the men to pass their time agreeably.

A number of outings and entertainments were arranged during the month, the most important being that on the Lord Mayor's Show Day on 9th November. On this date each year, when the new Lord Mayor of London assumes office, the installation ceremony includes a "Show" or procession through the principal streets of the city, followed by the renowned Banquet in the Guild-Hall. Fifty of our men, in charge of the Matron and Nurses, were invited to view the procession from the windows of the London offices of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the Canada Life Assurance Co., the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Allan Line, and Lloyd's Bank, a party of men at each place. Another party of 20 men were invited to view it from the offices of "The Times" newspaper. All had an excellent view of the Procession, which this year took the form of a military pageant, and included, besides the Lord Mayor