

at the time was equipment for 400 beds, which had been transported from Egypt. The work that laid next our hand was the acquisition of equipment to meet the needs of our new expansion. This was accomplished in due course, and the associated task of the pitching of hospital marquees was undertaken. The work was carried out with skill and zest by our men. Within the period of a week, a city of canvas, with prospective paths and roadways staked, had sprung into existence on the site.

And thus, by work from day to day, the Tent Hospital, which was to be our first charge in France, came to completion. It was not our first-born; but the pleasure of creation was common to every member of the unit. Experience gained in the establishment of our two former Hospitals proved of the greatest value in carrying out our latest task. But many new considerations had to be met in France that were not present in England or Egypt. The ground on which the Hospital was situated had to be surveyed and prepared for erection of tents. Much levelling and road construction proved necessary. There were no permanent buildings that could be utilized, beyond an iron-covered cookhouse. Not only had the Hospital to be established and provision made for carrying on administrative activities, but preparation of quarters for personnel of all ranks constituted a considerable extension of labours. All difficulties were, however, overcome; the preparation of our new place of work was advanced from stage to stage to become a Hospital in every significance of that term. One can picture it as it stood through the summer, a comfortable and conveniently disposed home for the treatment of the sick and wounded in war! Large marquees, in sets of three placed end to end, and constituting a ward, stretched in regular lines over an area of twenty acres. A great field of canvas roofs rose and fell in the wind. Neat gravel paths formed a pattern of squares as they ran between wards and joined hospital boundaries from side to side and end to end. There were twenty-seven wards, each capable of accommodating thirty-six beds; there were tents for use as offices and other special purposes associated with hospital management; large marquees were used as dining-hall and store places for equipment; there were the bell tents where men and N.C.O.'s lived just near the scene of their labours. Quarters for Officers were also established in the immediate vicinity of the Hospital.

Some delay in the time of the admission of our first patients was occasioned by the need of a hut in which should be established the X-Ray Department, Operating Theatre, and Laboratories. The construction of this hut was undertaken, and completed in one month. In the interval between the time of our arrival and the time when our Hospital was complete, Nursing Sisters and a large proportion of Medical Officers did temporary duty with other units in the area. Finally, on June 5th, we were ready to receive patients in our newly-completed Hospital, a thing of rapid growth, but self-contained and complete in equipment, with spacious wards, in clean, well-ventilated marquees, an Operating Theatre, Dispensary, Dental Department, Pathological Laboratory, and X-Ray Department.

The amount of work that fell to us increased gradually, affording opportunity for testing all points of the system of management that had been inaugurated. It culminated with the early stages of the Somme Battle, about July 2nd, when all our previous figures of admission were eclipsed, and our introduction to wounds and illnesses of the Western Front was completed. This was a period of pressure felt in all departments. Three or four convoys a day, composed of men fresh from the horrors and glories of battle would be brought to us. They were transported from the railway station in Red Cross Ambulances, that ubiquitous agency of convenience and mercy, already on the stretcher that had borne them in the first stages of their return to care and treatment. Not infrequently the hardened mud of the trenches clung to their uniforms, and evidences of a fresh, uncared-for wound were