

MILITARY HOSPITALS COMMISSION-CANADA

How the Wounded Soldier is Restored to Civil Life

Military trains, consisting of regular sleeping cars and a diner, convey Canada's returned soldiers from the Quebec clearing hospital to a central depot in each M. H. C. Command Unit, where entries of their arrival are made, and passes for two weeks' leave with transportation to their home towns are issued to those whose condition permits. Doctors and nurses accompany the trains to administer dressings and other treatments which may be daily requirements of wounded men capable otherwise of looking after themselves.

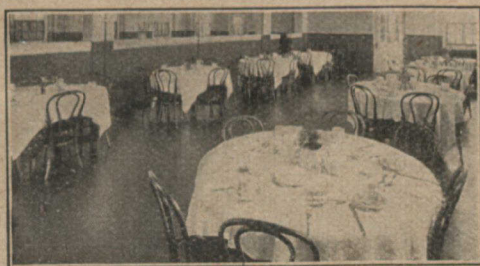


Ward in Vancouver Military Annex.

Almost immediately after the ship docks a telegraphic dispatch conveys across the country the names of all returned men, to be published in the newspapers for the information of friends and relations. Reception committees co-operate with the M. H. C. local representatives in almost every important town to express the community's rejoicing at the soldiers' return by some public demonstration.

Civil life the objective

After his two weeks leave the soldier reports at the military convalescent hospital named on his pass. Here in comfortable, homelike surroundings he embarks upon the task of achieving victory over his wounds. Restoration to sturdy, independent civilian life is held before him as his objective, and the life of the institution stimulates his interest in that goal.



Dining Room at Whitby.

Sleeping accommodation is provided on single beds with real linen, a change from the boards and gray blankets of barrack life. Cheerful dining rooms, with healthy food and plenty of

it — the officers have the same as the patients — make meal-times worth while. Dietitians prepare the menus with a view to healthful blending of food values and the appetizing character of the dishes.

Recreations encouraged

An officer commanding, medical officers, matron, dietitian, vocational officers, physical director, nurses and masseurs have charge of the physical, educational and social welfare of the patients. Recreation rooms where picture shows, entertainments, and indoor games can be enjoyed afford opportunity for the boys to get together and have a good time. Billiard tables, bowling alleys, moving picture machines, or other equipment are at their disposal.

Indulgence in outdoor games is encouraged and sites for hospitals have been selected with a view to the opportunities afforded for this kind of entertainment. Medical officers and physical instructors are in charge so that no individual may do himself harm. Tennis courts,



Soldiers and nurses bowling at Shaughnessy Military Convalescent Hospital.

baseball diamonds, golf links, etc., are found at many of the homes.

Equipment high class

The hospital function is always kept in mind by the officers, but is thrust upon the patients as little possible. Dispensaries, massage rooms, and special treatment rooms are reserved for this purpose. In the active treatment hospitals where operating rooms are necessary the location and equipment conform to the most advanced surgical ideals. At the Orthopaedic Hospital, North Toronto, where at present amputation cases are concentrated and most of the major operations are performed, the celebrated Frink light which throws no shadow on the operating table is used.

If a soldier has an ailment requiring the care of specialists he is assigned to an institution equipped for the care of just that class of case. Thus, sanatoria for those having tuberculosis are scattered throughout the country and very few patients fail to recover their health.

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