

it is to their enthusiasm and constant devotion to the work of the Hospital that success is in no small measure due.

In a fortnight recruiting was practically completed. Outfitting had proceeded apace, and a course of training outlined and put into effect. The Nurses were not assembled until a later period, but at their homes they made the manifold preparations demanded for such an expedition. Nothing was known regarding the time of departure, though rumour, as has been the case on many an occasion since, repeatedly fixed the date.

At last, on May 5th, we were given twenty-four hours' notice to entrain. Fond farewells were made—in some instances these proved to be last farewells also—and our life in Kingston and Canada was at an end for a period which none could then, as they cannot even now, foretell.

#### TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

The interval between the Mobilisation and Embarkation of No. 5 Stationary Hospital was spent in equipping the rank and file of the unit and gathering together, with the aid of the Red Cross Society of Kingston, a nucleus of Hospital supplies to be taken Overseas with us. The Hospital equipment, we were told, would be supplied on our arrival in England. Fortunately, it did not take long to complete these duties, for though over a month elapsed between the order for Mobilisation and the order for Embarkation on Overseas service, very little warning was given of the latter order, so that, except for those members of the unit whose homes were in Kingston, no time could be granted for "last leave" or farewells.

The Sisters who were to compose the Nursing Staff having been called in, a General Muster of Officers, Sisters and Men was held on the University Campus on the afternoon of May 5th, 1915, and afterwards a Farewell Tea was given in Grant Hall by the ladies of Kingston. Immediately following, the "March Out" began. On the way to the railway station a halt was made at the Kingston Armouries, where the unit joined forces with a battalion of the Eastern Ontario District, which had orders to proceed Overseas by the same boat as ourselves. Here addresses were delivered by the Mayor of the City and Mr. W. F. Nickle, M.P. Then began the memorable march to the "Outer Station" (Kingston Junction). The street and roadway for the whole distance were packed with citizens to wish us "Bon Voyage" and a speedy return. We doubt if ever a send-off was more general and hearty.

#### OVERSEAS

On the morning of May 6th we boarded at Montreal the good ship *Metagama*, being joined by No. 3 General (McGill) and No. 4 Stationary Hospitals. At the boat we were greeted by the Minister of Militia, and shared with the Montreal units the magnificent "Au Revoir" given by the citizens of Montreal. Those of us who were on the *Metagama* on that day still picture with reminiscent emotion the cheering, waving crowd as the *Metagama* loosed her hawsers to head down the mighty St. Lawrence. After a voyage mixed with pleasure and anxiety—the rumour of the sinking of the *Lusitania* having reached us while at sea—we landed at Plymouth Harbour on the morning of May 15th.

At Plymouth the Nursing Sisters left our party, proceeding to London to be posted to British Hospitals or sent Overseas for duty in France, while the rest of us made a very hungry and tedious train journey to Shorncliffe, which we reached about 4 a.m., May 16th. Temporary quarters were assigned us at Moore Barracks, but in a few days a new location near by was found for the unit at St. Martin's Plain.