
PRISONERS OF WAR

By MARJORIE LOWTHER.

DURING the last two months the work in this department has increased very considerably.

When we first started work in here we only had the names of a few hundred Canadian prisoners in Germany on our list, now we have 1,366; this entails a great deal more work and correspondence, etc. We send out to each prisoner, who as far as we know is not being otherwise provided for, a four-shilling parcel of food a fortnight. All our parcels are packed in cardboard boxes and double brown paper. As they are packed in the presence of a censor and stamped by him, they are not unpacked until their arrival at the prison camps.

In addition to this we send a loaf of bread a week to each man. Up till now we have been sending it through an English firm, but as not all the reports of its condition have been very satisfactory, we have made arrangements with the British Legation at Berne to have it dispatched from there.

Several parcels that have been incorrectly addressed have been returned to us with all their contents quite intact.

A certain number of the prisoners are being looked after by their relations and friends, and of course to these we do not send.

Another point of interest is the number of letters received from the Commandants of the prison camps in Germany, all showing considerable human interest in the prisoners.

One of the Commandants of a Hospital writes as follows:—"I regret to inform you that.....was admitted to this hospital suffering from severe shrapnel wounds, and in spite of every care died of his wounds and was buried with military honours, and a cross with his name put on his grave."

He also gives further particulars of the number, etc., of his grave in the churchyard.