

“We have and still are giving the United States army the benefits of our three years’ experience in keeping healthy our enormous army. In fact a close co-operation between the medical branches of the British army and that of the United States has been maintained since the very beginning of the war. American army medical men from the start have been keeping in touch with our medical and sanitary arrangements, and if the results of their observations have been applied to their own organization, as I have every reason to believe they have, the United States army ought to take the field under better medical supervision than any army in the world. In other words, the American soldier ought to be the healthiest, backed as he is by a medical organization that has benefited by all the experiences of our great armies.”

These are wise words from the lips of Sir Alfred Keogh, and are destined to do much good. In the first place, they show what efforts have been made for the health of the man behind the gun. They also show that the medical professions of the United States and Britain have been co-operating with each other. Now that the United States is an active ally, the medical and surgical experiences of Britain will prove very valuable.

FINDING HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE SOLDIERS.

This is a large and by no means easy question to answer. There are now in this country about 5,000 invalided soldiers, and before the recent Arras battle there were at least 15,000 Canadians in Britain under treatment. These will be steadily returning to this country. They must be taken care of, and this will present several problems.

In the first place, tents might be put up for them. This would be a quick method of providing accommodation, but in many ways a very unsatisfactory way. It certainly would not suit our winter season.

Then, as a second way of dealing with the problem, temporary buildings might be erected. These would be one-storey structures and made of framework and cased with lumber or metal. This plan, again, has many weak features, such as the heating, sanitation, and operating rooms. Finally, they would be useless after the war needs are over.

As another method, many types of building may be converted into hospitals. It is a very expensive thing to fix up old churches, school houses, large residences, etc., into soldiers’ homes and hospitals. This outlay is wasted when the war is over.

Now, we take the liberty of offering a solution. The government should make many grants to the hospitals now in existence, with which these institutions would erect permanent and modern additions to their