

Canadian Hospital News

Official Organ of the Granville Canadian Special Hospitals

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RAMSGATE, KENT, JULY 8, 1916.

PRICE ONE CENT

EDITORIAL

The week that has elapsed since our last issue has been a memorable one in many respects. In the larger issues of the war it has marked the joining up of the last link in the concerted action of the allies, which, with the inexorableness of fate itself, seems destined to mark the beginning of the end. "The Mills of the Gods grind slow—"

In our own immediate little world the happy incident of the proclamation of a General Bank Holiday on the natal day of our Dominion seemed more than a coincidence, and gave opportunity for a fitting celebration, while the day preceding (June 30th) an informal opening and inspection of the work of our hospital, marked a milestone in the history of the Institution.

ON Friday, the 30th June, about two hundred invited guests assembled for luncheon at Chatham Annex, and a very happy crowd enjoyed a splendidly appointed luncheon prepared and served by our own staff and patients. An inspection of beautiful old Townley Castle Annex followed, evoking much delighted comment on the splendid transformation wrought by the patients under the untiring energy of Capt Hill. The grounds, flowers, vegetable gardens, poultry raising, etc. The gymnasium and classes were at work, and the workshops at full blast; blacksmiths, machinists, boots and saddlery, splint making, carpentry, cigarette making, etc. Later a visit was made to the Granville where the more acute cases were seen undergoing the various forms of treatment; various kinds of baths; massage; electricity in its various forms; X-ray; Radiant Heat; electric water baths, etc. The beautifully neat operating rooms, etc. At 4.30 tea was served in the large theatre-recreation room, from the large stage of which our own patients' orchestra discoursed sweet music—while dainty nursing sisters dispensed "the cup that cheers." It was indeed hard to believe that the beaming faces of our sick and wounded belonged to many who would have to face life's struggles with a handicap!

The morrow, however, belonged to Canada—early in the forenoon, the schoolchildren of St. Luke's under the able guidance of Miss Wilson, and at the youngsters own request, came to Chatham Annex (led by the band of the 6th Battalion) 400 of them!—and danced, and sang, and hoisted the Union Jack, and then Canada's Union Jack, and danced Morris dances; wove the mystic weave of England's own Maypole time and again, and sang their fairy songs—and sweetest of all—"The Maple Leaf"—how good it sounded!—till the crowds faded into the surrounding flowers and trees, and only fairies were left, who by their magic touch, had annihilated time, and war, and distance, till one saw—with rather misty eyes!—home, and other children — Then a big soldier leading a tiny tot right up to the midst of these four hundred and presenting the fairy godmother who had caused all these things to be, with a big box of chocolates! The little soldier salutes like a veteran and Col. Watt with his little guest, Master Ingodlby, marched back. So was our Dominion Day opened most auspiciously! thousands of the citizens witnessed the games while in the evening at Granville, the prizes were presented. Surely a full day! The sun shone gloriously and with ever a thought for our comrades in less favoured circumstances.

The collection for the Prisoners of War Fund netted the handsome total of £32 4s. 6d.

One cannot let the occasion pass without heartily echoing the commanding officer's words of praise and thanks to the patients for their work and cooperation, and to all who had so signally made the two days so real a success.
R. W.

Here and There

Townley Castle is a delightful, rambling old building, full of the romance of a by-gone day, which, by the magic of willing workers has been transformed into a modern hospital. A more reposeful dwelling can scarcely be imagined, and it is an ideal spot for the men who have gone through the noise and din of battle. The men quartered there fully appreciate their beautiful surroundings, and are enthusiastic about their C.O., who takes as deep an interest in the old place as he does in their comfort and well-being.

Now the warm weather is here the sea looks very inviting—we wonder would it be possible to have "bathing parades" for suitable patients! We commend the idea to the powers that be!

Chatham House is on the way to being a self-supporting convalescent colony. There are the various machine shops, a splendidly-kept garden, and a live-stock branch which is raising chickens and rabbits in large numbers. An atmosphere of neatness and efficiency reigns everywhere, and the men responsible for the work are to be congratulated.

(The following tribute has been received from a French soldier)

"You came many thousands of miles, leaving your lovely valleys, your blue lakes, your prosperous homesteads, your dear ones, and at the call of your Mother Country, fighting young army that you are, you faced our common foe on the soil of France.

Way out in your Canada, your wives, your mothers, your little ones, are spending this Dominion Day anxious and alone.

Comrades of yours rest beneath the little green mounds of France, but their tremendous sacrifice has not been in vain. Daughters of France will deck their graves with flowers and water them with their tears.

France, on this Dominion Day, gives you a tribute of her thankfulness. Her sons and daughters will mingle the words Liberty and Canada, and in her heart are engraved your deeds at Ypres, Festubert, and many other places. We salute you, for your splendid heroism has kept the tri-colours waving, and the Lily of France intact."

Sgt. Desreux.

Dominion Day, 1916.

To Albertans.

In the dim distant sweet by-and bye,
You'll remember this first of July,
When you were at Ramsgate
And some silly damsgate
Made Sunny Alberta go dry.

A number of contributions are unavoidably held over.

THE GRANVILLE DEBATING AND
UTOPIAN SOCIETY

The last meeting of the 1915 season was held on Friday, the 13th, in the annex of the Recreation Room Casino, and after the minutes of the last meeting had been approved Private Peddleit read an interesting paper on "Plovers' eggs as a cure for Trench feet." During the subsequent discussion many arguments were advanced; indeed, so divergent were some of the views expressed that the chairman found it necessary to call the meeting to order!!!

Later, when the atmosphere had cleared, Corporal Washout displayed his keen sense of detail in his remarkable notes on "The Digestibility of Frozen Fish," conclusively proving that at least one in every hundred and forty seven was edible.

He pointed out the economic advantage accruing from the government scheme of collecting all the denisons of the deep suffering from Shell Shock in the vicinity of the naval battles, and shipping them to Ramsgate via Siberia and Greenland, thereby saving expense of large refrigerating plants.

The last subject discussed was of a more technical character, being "The effect of high explosive on the locomotor muscles."

Sergeant Staythere, of the postal corps, gave a great deal of evidence on the matter, having had a man working under him who's cousin had a brother who had fought at the battle of Messines, and his opinion was that provided you started running in the right direction, and not t'wards the spot where the "Bang" would be, you were safe; the Sergeant stated he thought the paralysis of the leg muscles had been greatly exaggerated, he personally did not see how a whistling sound could cause it.

Lance Corporal Wontgoe, who gained such fame by the suppression of English beer at B——, cited a case where a tyre on a Ford car burst, if it had not been that he started running in the direction of the sea and couldn't swim, he would probable be going yet.

The meeting finished with a vote of thanks to the chairman and a request for an extra rum issue. H. S. S.

THEM WIMMEN!

They've started cleanin' winders, yes, and climbin' ladders tall

An' driving 'eavy waggonettes an' taxi-cabs an' all.

They know about the steerin'

An' the changing of the gearin'

But I've heard as 'ow they sometimes run the thing into the wall.

Yer can see 'em in the tram-cars, an' the uniform they wears

Looks mighty neat and comfy when they're climbin' up the stairs.

It makes yer kind o' grin

When they says, so pert and prim,

"We don't stop 'ere," or "Further up," or "Divvy up the fares."

The War Office 'as got 'em, an' munitions places too.

There seems to be no end ter what these wimmen critters do!

An' when we're on the run

(Tho' o' course that's just my fun)

You'll find 'em very 'andy round the Plains o' Waterloo! *

B.N.

* Name of a Square in Ramsgate.

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Sports and Entertainments

The Granville Orchestra and Minstrels took the stage on Friday evening and treated their fellow-patients to two hours of real old-time minstrelsy. Several new faces were seen among the troupe, notably Pte. Murdock, a gifted baritone, and Pte. Doran, a born "end-man," whose pantomime comedy kept the audience bubbling with laughter. His versions of "The Mulligan Guards" and "Granville Races" were a scream all through. Instrumental, quartette, and solo numbers were rendered. The troupe were disappointed that so few of the officers were present.

The children of St. Luke's school opened the Dominion Day festivities with a patriotic demonstration at Chatham House. Dressed in white, with here and there touches of brilliant colour, they made a delighted picture, and their songs, dances, tableaux, etc., were all very well rendered. They were assisted by bands of the 61st Battalion, B.E.F., and the 6th Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, whose sturdy uniformed figures made a splendid set off to the costumes of the children.

Notwithstanding the sparcity of entries for the Sports the afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by a large crowd. Great credit is due to the Sergt.-Instructors and the band of willing workers who so ably assisted them in stage-managing the affair, and we desire to thank, on behalf of the Granville Hospitals, the many good friends who assisted in making our Dominion Day celebration such a marked success.

Prizes for the sports and rifle competitions were distributed on Saturday evening by Lt-Col. Watt, who also accepted, on behalf of the Granville Rifle Team, the shield presented by Gen. Sir Chas. Warren, and recently won by them. This presentation was made by the Mayor of Ramsgate, who, in a few well-chosen words, paid compliment to the prowess of our riflemen and the geniality of our Colonel.

The Granville Minstrels entertained the children of St. Luke's School on Wednesday, presenting a programme specially designed for the entertainment of the little ones which was well received by them.

The materials necessary to play a few lawn games would be greatly appreciated by the patients whose "blues" preclude their leaving the promenade.

Saturday's ball game resulted in a win for the 61st Battalion by nine runs to three. Granville got away to a good start and notched three points, but a series of errors later gave the game to the 61st. The sensation of the game was a wonderful catch by Blackadar.

RIFLE PRIZE LIST

Highest individual score in winning team for Col. Watt Cup, won by Pte. Swayn, 4th Floor, 78.

R.M.R.C. TREASURER'S PRIZES—1st, Sergt. Hye; 2nd, Pte. Smith.

OPEN SIGHT CONTEST—1st prize, (given by Major Fane) Sergt. Powell; 2nd, (given by Lt. Allen) Sergt. Porter; 3rd, (given by Capt. Goodwillie) Cpl. Clarke.

GROUPING CONTEST—Prizes by Capt. Thomas—1st. Prize, Sergt. Hye; 2nd. Prize, Pte. McDonald; 3rd. Prize, Pte. Swayne.

OPEN AND PEEP CONTEST—Prizes by Capt. Grey—1st. Prize, Sergt. Powell; 2nd. Prize, Sergt. Porter; 3rd. Prize, Pte. Coleman.

Presentation of Col. Watt Cup for month of June. Winners Fourth Floor—384-400—Pte. Smith, Capt., Pte. Swayne, Pte. MacDonald, C.S.M. Handcock, Sergt. Porter.

Highest individual score in winning team, Pte. Smith 79. Presentation of Shield given by Gen. Sir Charles Warren won by the Granville Rifle Team for 1916.—Capt. Goodwillie, Sergts. Porter, Powell and Hye, Ptes. Swayne, Fordham, Loiselle, Frost and MacDonald.

Souvenir Medals—Presented to Present Team—Capt's. Goodwillie, Robson, Nickle, Sergts. Powell, Porter, Hye, Corpl. Clarke, Ptes. Smith, Swayne, MacDonald.

Presentation of Silver Spoons to the Nursing Sisters of Granville Can. Spec. Hosp. 1st. Sister Currie; 2nd. Sister McDonald; 3rd, Sister Robb.

Presentation of Skilled Shot Medals—Sergts. Powell Porter, Ptes. Swayne, Smith.

Rifleman's Certificates—Corpl. Clarke. Ptes. Coleman, MacDonald. A case of cigarettes has been kindly given to the Canadian Miniature Rifle Team by the Royal Hotel, Ramsgate.

OUR ELEVATOR.

Careful investigation has shown that the word elevator has several meanings. Primarily, it is something that elevates; but our elevator more frequently depresses one—mentally!

Owing to the European War, the management has been obliged to make some slight alterations in the schedule; and passengers are requested to be tolerant of delays. The 7.30 breakfast car has been discontinued owing to the consequent overcrowding at lunch.

Fourth and Third floor men can obtain luncheon and tea baskets for the journey: either in the sisters room, or by ordering through the attendant at least two floors on the top of or below their destinations. It has been found that the odour of cooking which pervades the shaft is in itself sufficiently nourishing for short journeys between any two neighbouring floors.

The permanent expression of surprise on the faces of the attendants may be ascribed to the shocks they receive when the car manages to reach the top without developing a hot box or stopping for water.

If, on peering through the translucent windows of the shaft, the counterweight is seen to be dancing violently up and down, it is as well to sign the insurance coupon, to be found in every box of Myant & Brays Non-strictable matches before embarking, as a nervous and inexperienced attendant will be found in charge and he won't give a hang whether the machine goes up or down; and if he had any preference he would be unable to make the darn thing change its way anyway!

There is always room for one more in an elevator; so never take any notice if the boys inside shout "Full House." If you're on crutches you can get your own back by planting them on the likeliest pair of feet in view, and then apologizing profusely. There's no room for anyone to fetch you a crash on the nose!

Be very careful, however, not to choose the attendant's feet for in his agony of mind whilst, hesitating between words, as it were, he will most probably pull the wrong tap and take you all to realms above.

Don't try to beat your way in the luggage van. It never stops at a depot and you'd hate to have the conductor ditch you half-way.

In the event of the car dropping from the top the following procedure is to be adopted. Shoot the arms smartly above the head. At the third floor grasp the roof firmly, backs of the hands down. At the second floor raise slowly on the toes, at the first spring slightly upwards, taking the time from the attendant. In the event of your being too short to reach the roof, stand on the attendant's neck. He'll be too busy waiting for the bump to care, and anyway it will soften your fall!

The wheel in the top of the shaft will certainly come with the car, but science proves that the velocity of a falling body is not connected with its weight, so you may race it to the bottom.

If not the wheel will make a bon souvenir to show visitors during the following months!!

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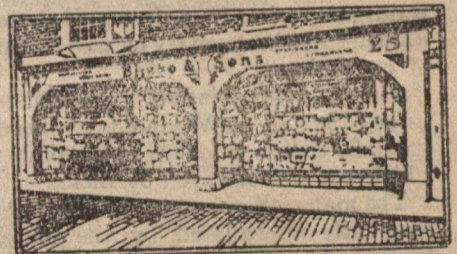
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