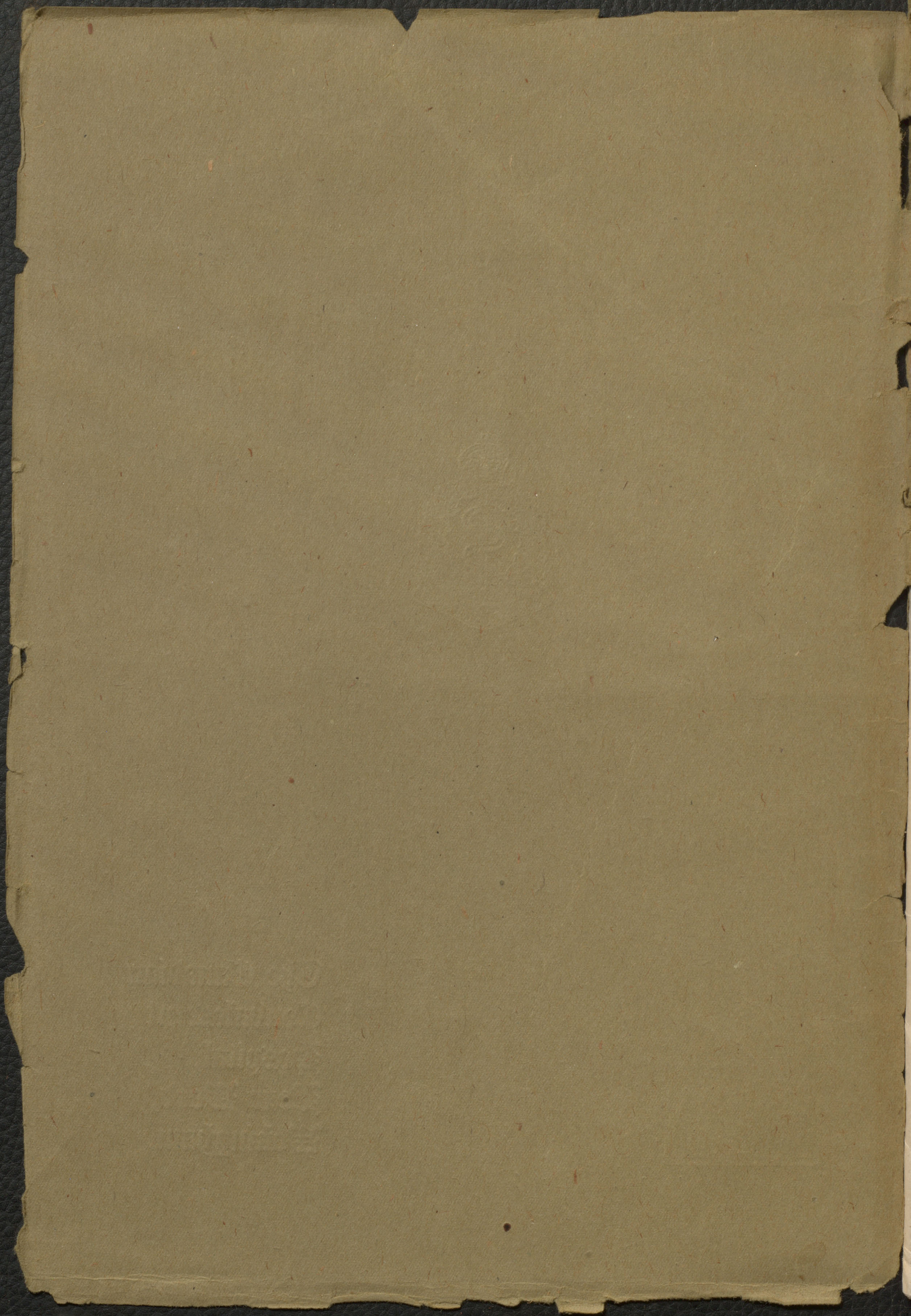




The Canadian
Convalescent
Hospital,
Bear Wood,
Wokingham.



PHM/82

125⁰⁰

The CANADIAN
CONVALESCENT
HOSPITAL



BEAR WOOD
WOKINGHAM
BERKSHIRE

1915-18.

2603842

THE
COMMUNAL
HOSPITAL

1007
W. 10th St.
Burlington

1913

The Canadian Convalescent
Hospital, Bear Wood,
Wokingham, Berkshire.



Mr. and Mrs.
JOHN WALTER.



THE MANSION.



LT.-COL. ROBT. E. WODEHOUSE, O.C.

Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Bear Wood.



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Bear Wood Deputy Controller and Q.M.A.A.C. personnel being inspected by Queen Mary at Aldershot, June, 1918.

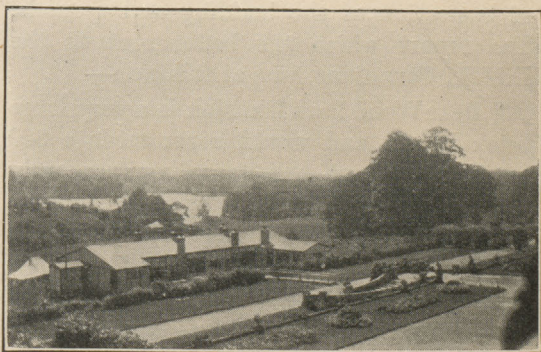
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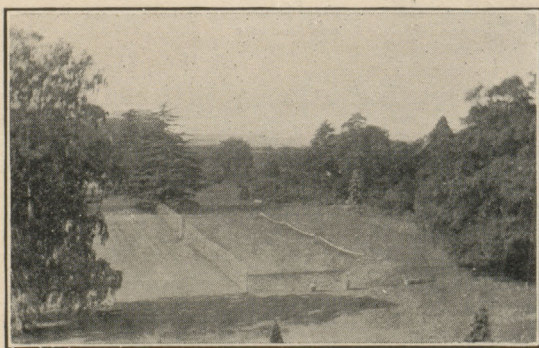
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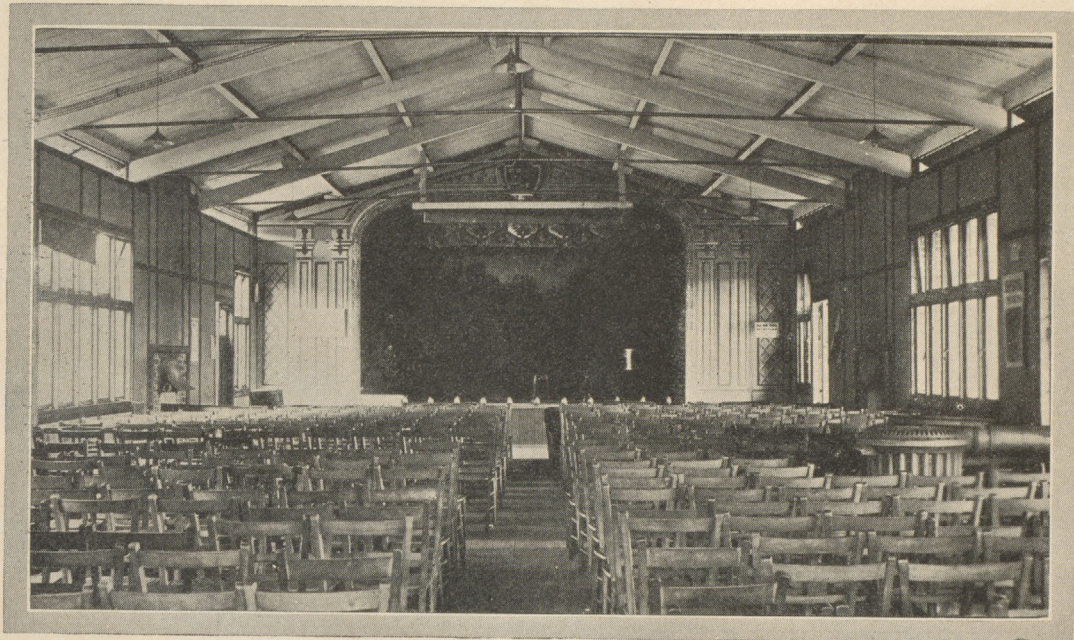
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West Terrace.

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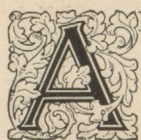
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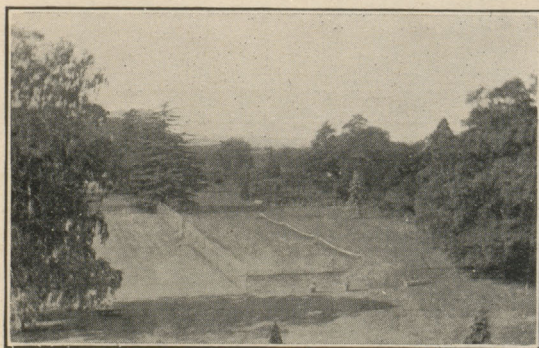
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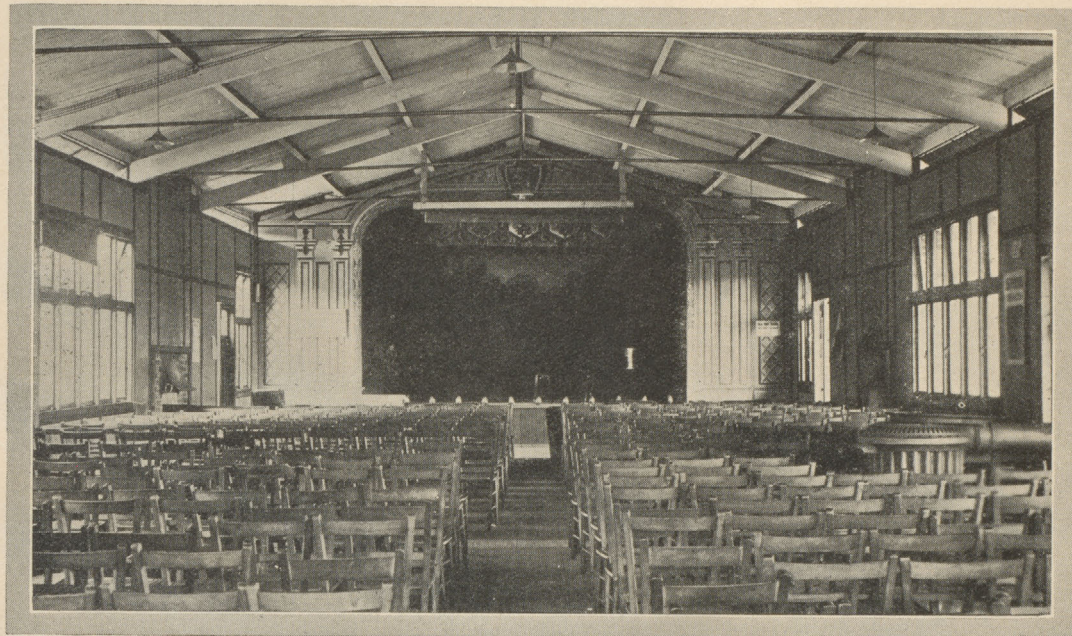
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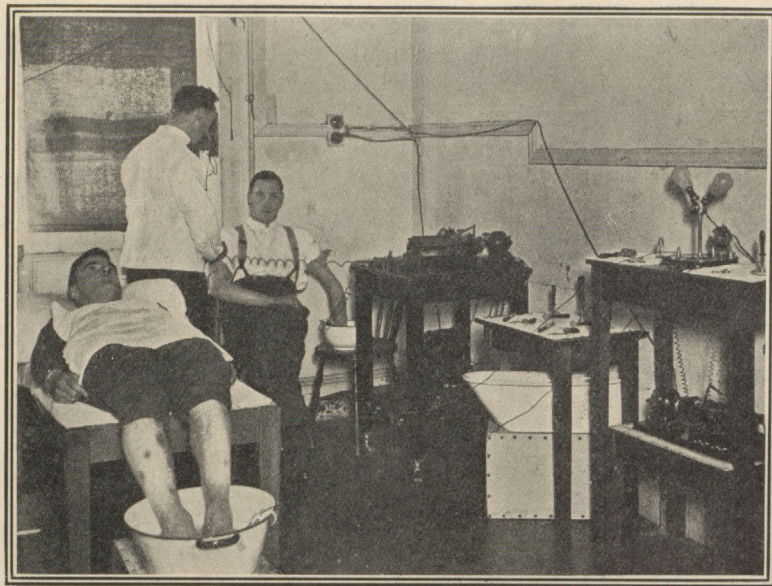
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The first Registrar's Office was opened in the room which is now the Sick Ward number 2, on the ground floor, and which was used as a library before the hospital was opened. In fact, all administrative offices were centred here, with that of the Officer Commanding next door, with tiled floors and entrances on to the terrace. Capt. Gillespie, Pincher's Creek, Alberta, was first Registrar and Adjutant. The Registrar and Adjutant's Offices were moved to the

tradesmen's entrance north-east wing. Capt. Gillespie's term of office was short owing to illness, and Capt. Towers, Sarnia, Ontario, took over the duty, soon to be relieved by Capt. Corbett. The office was divided into that of Registrar and Adjutant, Capt. Bennet, Vancouver, B.C., taking charge of the Adjutant's branch and really organizing the files and records from the inception of the Hospital to this date. He was very efficient and arrived at Bear Wood at an opportune time. Capt. Corbett was soon taken off the strength to proceed to Canada

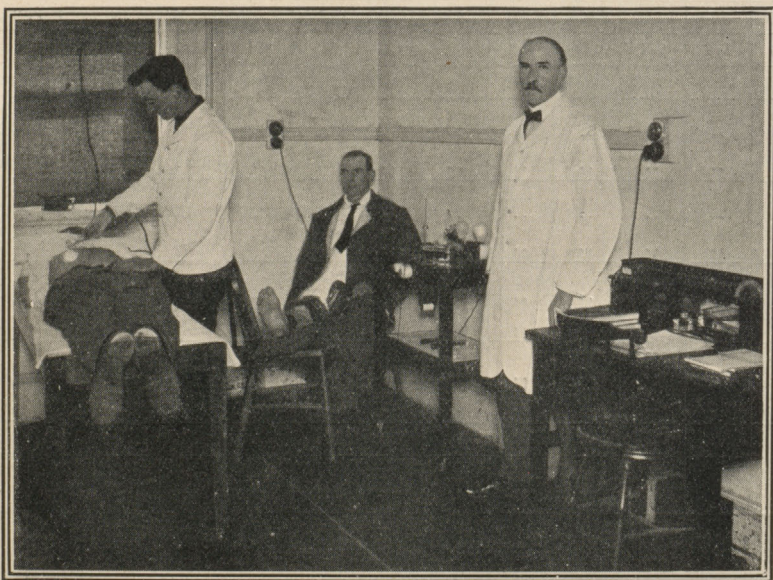


Galvanism and Faradism.

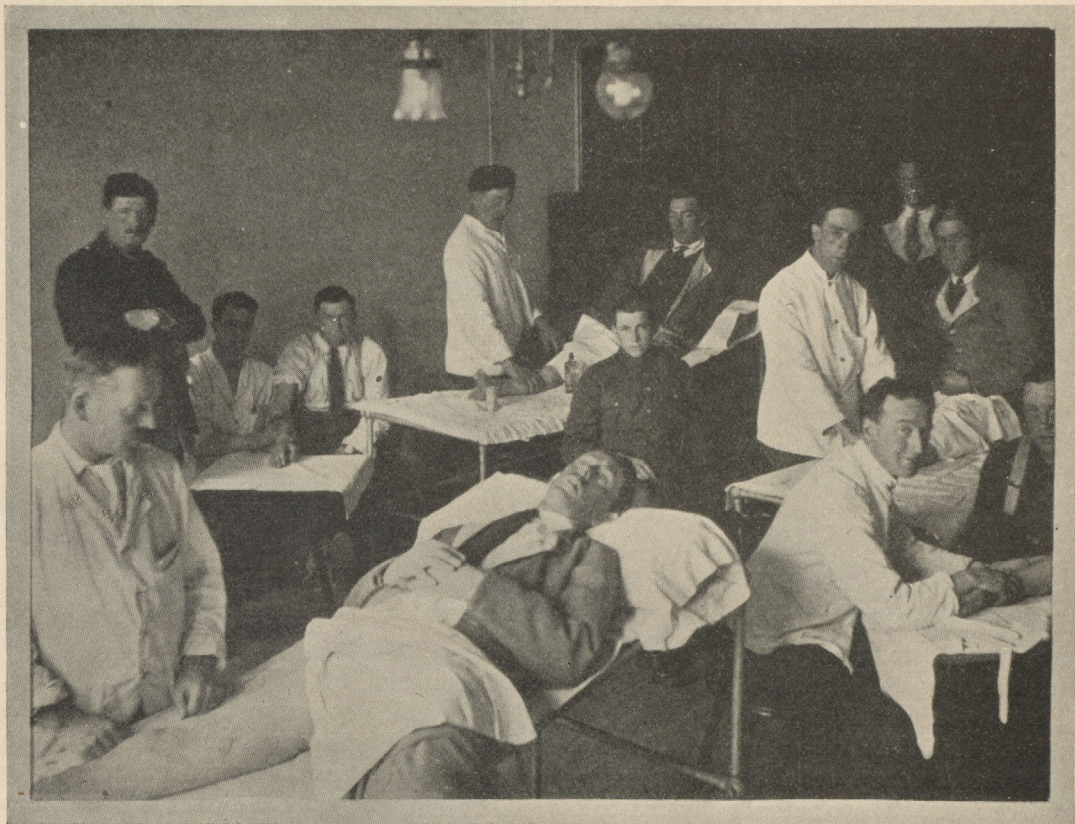
to command a field ambulance. Capt. McDiarmid, Vancouver, B.C., took over the duties of Registrar, which he held up to 1918. Capt. Bennet was withdrawn for duty in France, and Capt. Stevens, a combatant officer, took over the Adjutant duties and those of company officer. He was soon taken off the strength owing to illness, and Capt. Graham Wilson, Winnipeg, Man., took over the duties and conducted them in an efficient manner. He was soon ordered to France, and the two offices were united for administration under one officer, Capt. McDiarmid.

When Capt. McDiarmid was attached in the spring of 1918 to the A.D.M.S. Office, London area, for duty, a young officer, Capt. James Sutherland, of Winnipeg, Man., took on the duties and was soon followed by Capt. Nathaniel McDonald, a South African veteran who had seen two years' service with the R.A.M.C. in France.

The Quartermaster's services had been administered at the opening of this Hospital for six weeks by Hon. Capt. I. D. Carson, C.A.M.C., Vancouver, B.C., in an



Mr. Maddox in High Frequency Room.



Massage Department.

	Oct.	Nov.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Daily average strength ..	64.5	116	142	181	286.7	320.36	240	413	655	655	584	669	673	676
Weekly average discharges in relation to daily average strength	28%	21%	21%	28%	14%	14%	35%	22%	28%	21%	21%	21%	17%	17%
Total per Cap. days,	1,935	3,603	4,405	5,255	8,888	9,611	7,436	12,404	20,328	20,610	17,501	20,750	20,198	20,985
Monthly discharge	109	148	175	244	169	290	371	406	877	674	614	633	466	518
Average stay in hospital ..	8.83	11.12	18.63	27.53	30.37	31.85	32.32	23.33	20.09	28.07	46.70	35.68	28.35	38.17
Number of patients requiring dressing .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	169	369	330	266
Total treatments .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,107	3,937	3,195	2,938
Number of cases requiring massage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	108	177	202	154	204	166
Number of treatments .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	564	1,524	2,011	1,913	1,571	1,841
Number of cases requiring electro-therapy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Number of treatments .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Number of patients requiring dentistry .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	283	36	175	117
Number of treatments .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	452	83	262	186
Number boarded Canada .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Canada Boards awaiting transport .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Number of nervous disorganized heart cases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109	153

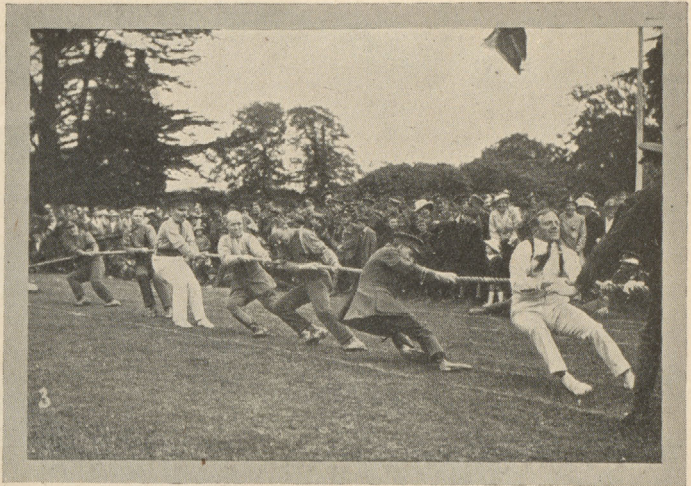


Mansion Dressing Room.

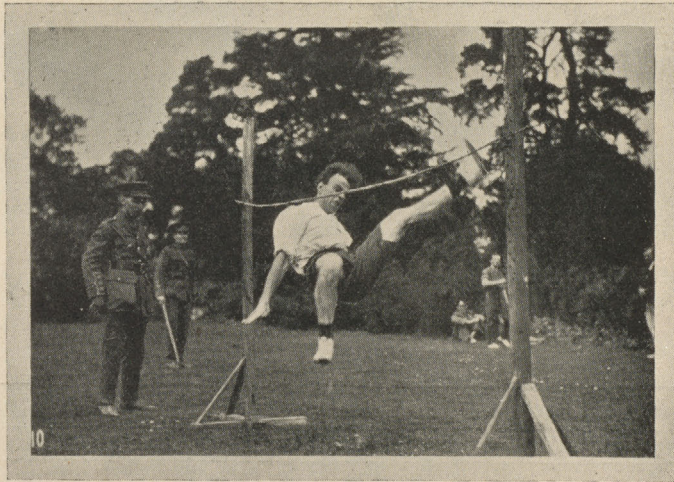
Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
669	666	645	595	621	610	354	344	571	613	370	646.5	660	623	574	633	621	562
15.9%	13%	18%	17%	20.3%	35.65%	26.64%	25.28%	27.99%	13.56%	11.18%	17.78%	21.29%	17.97%	20.89%	21.01%	19.01%	27.04%
20,769	18,653	20,004	17,844	12,973	18,300	10,995	10,680	17,138	19,038	13,050	20,523	20,728	17,468	17,805	19,019	19,267	16,867
395	338	460	435	672	870	535	348	254	431	654	440	759	477	481	533	476	609
47.72	58.85	69.14	65.50	45.85	44.72	33.56	54.50	40.27	37.06	40.42	25.42	28.80	24.21	30.23	37.28	35.32	36.25
234	195	123	197	459	371	211	145	185	312	307	295	150	178	148	155	170	160
2,300	2,484	1,860	1,800	3,805	3,291	1,872	947	1,748	5,329	4,815	3,726	2,980	2,646	2,671	2,304	2,634	2,521
169	144	117	105	185	155	121	115	212	251	232	196	232	225	213	182	134	137
1,457	1,466	1,257	712	2,065	1,791	868	1,438	3,570	3,663	1,244	1,767	1,813	1,687	1,837	1,567	913	1,012
..	..	..	..	..	38	56	81	103	103	96	78	181	147	170	100	164	162
..	..	..	..	..	113	295	481	793	773	524	603	739	1,007	1,113	957	2,158	1,702
112	147	139	150	165	138	158	120	230	226	254	162	216	176	107	208	217	229
231	212	202	267	246	242	349	227	566	437	510	349	544	362	213	253	288	276
N71	183	18	32	27	33	16	8	15	123	38	29	46	60	70	32	84	60
63	215	94	51	74	47	25	33	9	55	3	34	21	19	52	7	12	18
292	360	420	333	Total patients admitted, including June 30 15,713													
				Total per capita day 485.021													
				Average stay, all patients.. .. . 31.5 days													

July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
502	474	617	679	731	564	529	410	177
25.01%	20.25%	27.58%	24.75%	35.97%	22.31%	27.22%	50.97%	47.33%
15,566	14,695	18,526	21,052	21,949	17,488	16,399	11,480	2,661
505	387	675	707	1,045	827	577	836	336
33.93	34.57	33.28	20.37	39.54	20.36	19.22	21.94	20.70
48	218	280	432	514	331	239	113	..
1,442	2,346	3,610	4,474	6,356	3,268	2,677	1,658	..
116	112	171	228	216	152	134	96	..
935	1,240	1,320	1,403	1,348	947	993	678	..
51	64	30	41	65	25	78	58	..
1,137	1,271	534	1,032	1,504	147	495	438	..
152	88	137	195	Clinic With drawn	118	227	150	..
182	110	175	270	183	405	419	..	..
15	15	13	17	19	37	23	10	..
24	97	7	7	157	40	14	33	..
Over 21,000 Canadian soldiers were treated in this hospital.								

efficient manner, followed by a period without a commissioned officer, Quarter-Master-Sergeant J. D. P. Scholfield, Toronto, carrying on in a creditable way. The next commissioned officer was Hon. Capt. Smith, Montreal, who remained for about two months, when he was boarded to Canada, as medically unfit, and Hon. Lieut. A. Paull succeeded him until he also returned to Canada. He was an ex-British Army man of several campaigns, as also was his successor, Hon. Lieut.



Critical Stage in Officers versus Sergeants Event.

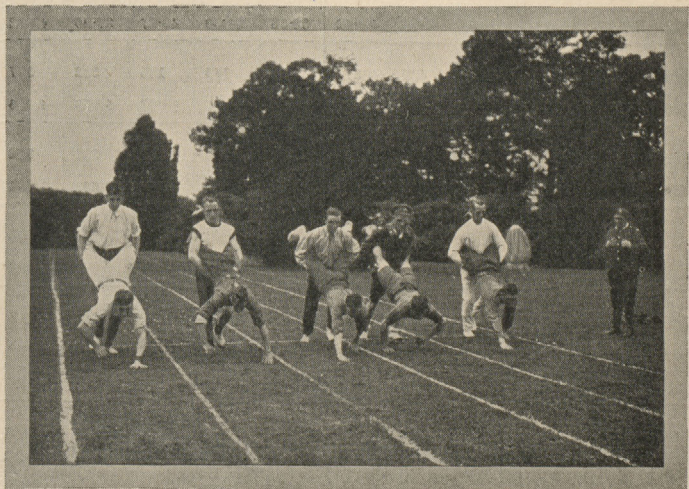


By courtesy of "Canada." A Regrettable Mishap.

ties resulting after termination of active treatment. From one point of view, that is, from the estimation of the commercial factor as to percentage of actual and final disability or the amount of pension probably due, the study is ever interesting. So also is the effect of Swedish remedial exercise, massage and electro-therapy, along with occupational employment, though the latter has been very little used since heart and nervous cases were taken away.

J. G. Haylett, now Hon. Captain. This latter officer was the original 1st Division Sergeant-Major of the 10th Battalion and hails from Moncton, N.B., and is an efficient, energetic officer.

The medical services are less interesting in a convalescent hospital from an acute ailment point of view than they are in an active treatment hospital, but they afford excellent material for the study of remedies for chronic ailments and disabili-



Wheel-barrow Race.



Canadian Winter at Bear Wood.



Tropical Summer in Rock Garden.

The Staff.

The staff, owing to the limited number—four officers to seven hundred beds, with regimental duties extra—have very hard work at times. They no doubt feel they are machines rather than specially trained students for research, diagnosis and treatment. They are, however, always cheerful

very popular medical officer here. Capt. Watters, a French Canadian M.O., and Capt. Hudson, a practitioner of 20 years' service in Michigan, who came overseas as a private, were both here for very short periods. Capt. Craig, from Saskatchewan Hospital, brightened the mess by a few weeks' attach-



Major-General Foster, C.B., C.A.M.C., and Brigadier-General Ross, C.B., C.M.G., C.A.M.C., honour Bear Wood.

and willing. Every medical teaching centre in Canada has been represented, and some of the Old Country and United States as well. Capt. Eaton, Capt. Brothers, and Capt. Goodchild all arrived here in the early days and all hailed from Winnipeg or near there. Capt. Moore arrived here soon after from near Toronto, followed by Major McDonald, from the Straits of Canso, Nova Scotia, and Capt. A. E. L. Thompson, from Queens, Kingston. Capt. Hay, from Wiarion, Ontario, and Capt. Briggs, from Victoria, B.C., were next to arrive. Capt. J. T. Lewis, from Hillsboro, N.B., was a

ment here. Capt. Cowan, a young but promising practitioner from Galt, Ontario, was next medical officer to be attached to Bear Wood Medical Services. Capt. Rykert, M. P. P., Wentworth, Ontario, Capt. Palling, Registrar, Barrie, Ontario, and Capt. Dudley, ex-Mayor, Webbwood, Ontario, arrived fresh from Canada. Capt. Robertson, a recent graduate from Queen's University, arrived soon, to be followed by Capt. Ferris, a surgeon of Edmonton, Alberta. The two latest arrivals were Capt. J. R. Matheson, of Prince Edward Island, and Capt. C. L. B. Stammers, of Smith Falls, Ontario.



Officer Commanding and Sergeants, 1918.



Staff, 1918.

The Nursing Sisters.

Nursing Sisters were attached to this Hospital for duty in February, 1916, and proved a most important adjunct to the welfare and happy progress to normal health of the patients cared for here.

Matron Smith, R.R.C., Nursing Sisters Mattice, R.R.C., Stronach, R.R.C., and Nichol were the first to report for duty, Mrs. John Walter making personal inquiry and provision of furnishings to assure their bodily comfort in quarters. Matron Smith, R.R.C., was soon withdrawn to take charge of the Ontario Government Military Hospital, Orpington, Nursing Staff. Nursing Sister Mattice, R.R.C., became acting sister in charge and was soon followed by Nursing Sister Stronach, R.R.C., who was succeeded by Nursing Sister Wylie, R.R.C., This nursing sister was succeeded as acting sister in charge by Sister Fletcher, who in turn was followed by Nursing Sister Robertson, whose service was temporarily interrupted by a short term of charge-ship by Matron Cameron Smith. Nursing Sister Wilson, of London, Ontario, is acting sister in charge at the time of writing.

The stay at Bear Wood of the Nursing Sisters has, on the average, been short.

Many were posted simply to await transport duty to Canada.

Passing from the sisters in charge to the members of the nursing staff, it is interesting to note the number who actually have been domiciled here or posted for duty. Nursing Sisters Hamilton and Ruddick, R.R.C., come first, closely followed by Nursing Sisters McKinnon and Pense, R.R.C., and then in close succession Nursing Sisters Ree, Pelford, Everard, McLaren, Galbraith, R.R.C., McCue, McPhee, Edgecombe, Nicholson, Ellis, Brennan, Hutson, Fellows (who, by the way, was married while here), Wood, Dunn, Robley, Leamy, Hurst, Greenwood, Morriss, Milard, McNeil, Green, Bennet, Debellefeuille, R.R.C., Mulholl, Brown, (also married while here), Gerrard, Home Sister Scatchard, Nursing Sisters Purcotte, Graves, and Gilchrist (who married Capt. Nathaniel McDonald while here.)

The Nursing Sisters at Bear Wood since January, 1918, are Nursing Sisters L. L. Gillis, M. J. Leitch, V. M. Donovan, R.R.C., L.D. Percy, L. M. McCleave, E. L. Craig, E. B. Etherington, E. Regan, S. Johnston, E. A. Anderson I. Wilson, G. M. Carvolth, E. E. Little, E. A. Thompson, F. M. Hocken, E. A. G. Bishop.



Rufus with Repatriated Canadians from Germany.

The Chaplain and Attached Services.

The officers serving at the Hospital who have not so far been noted are attached and belong to Corps other than C.A.M.C. The Chaplain services were not represented at first owing to the courtesy of the Rev. Mr. Nott, who voluntarily administered to our spiritual wants so long as he remained Rector of St. Catherine's Church, which is the parish attached to Bear Wood Mansion. The Officers' Mess has a living token of its happy association with this Rector in the presence of "Rufus," the Dane dog of excellent breed, who has been well known to all patients and others associated with Bear Wood. Following the departure of the Rev. Mr. Nott from St. Catherine's the Canadian Chaplain Services attached a Church of England Chaplain, who up to the time of writing has continued to administer to the adherents of St. Catherine's for more than two years. The first of these was Capt. Ambrose, a Nova Scotian, broad-minded and jocular, entertaining and very popular with the men. Hon. Capt. Allison, secretary to the Bishop of Kewatin, Canada, came from Dryden, Ontario. Hon. Capt. Collins, an exuberant youth from the Foothills of Alberta, and Hon. Capt. McNamara, from

Collingwood, Ontario. Hon. Capt. Shatford, now Hon. Major, Chaplain to the Canadian Army Corps, Headquarters, France, next appeared on the map. He was here for some considerable time, being a partial invalid and requiring light duty. Major Bayley, an English born and educated clergyman, succeeded. Among his other services he has been an enthusiastic leader in athletic sports, especially Association football. He had not been here long when owing to the lapse of time, twelve months, it was necessary for the Bishop of Oxford to see that the parish of St. Catherine's had an incumbent, or, the parish further defaulting, to see that the vacancy be filled. It was mutually agreed that Major Bayley be read in as Rector, and this accomplished he has now for eighteen months enjoyed the unique position of being a busy rural rector in the parish of Winnerish, besides undertaking his regimental duties of Senior Chaplain to the Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Bear Wood, Wokingham, England.

About the time this dual array of duties developed it was deemed advisable that the other Protestants, numbering at least 50 per cent. of the patients, be administered to



Art Gallery, now Mansion Dining Room.

and their religions wants cared for by the Chaplains of other faiths than the Church of England. Hon. Capt. Muncaster, a Congregationalist from Calgary, was the first additional officer attached for this purpose. Hon. Capt. Marshall, a buoyant, outspoken graduate of Knox, Toronto, Canada, followed Hon. Capt. Munroe, of Massey, Ontario, with a broad Scottish accent, which Canada had not succeeded in freeing him of, was the next

Capt. Victor Lemieux was the first officer to be attached and he was succeeded by Hon. Capt. Sherman, who was followed by Hon. Lieut. Hale, who, becoming a casualty, was succeeded by Hon. Capt. Fraser, who, when transferred to Bexhill, was followed by Capt. Hatheway.

The Adjutant-General, Canadian Overseas Military Forces, has been represented here since the disestablishment of the Cana-



"Cowie," the Butler.

to take up the work. Hon. Capt. Paulin, of Hamilton, who had lost the use of one arm at Vimy Ridge, was the next to administer and with marked success. He was returned to Canada. Hon. Capt. Faulds, Arnprior, Ontario, has been with us up to the time of writing. He is an excellent broad-minded cleric and a very useful officer.

The Canadian Army Pay Corps had not been represented from the inception of Bear Wood, Medical Officers having conducted the duties during its early days. Hon.

dian Casualty Assembly Centre. His first officer was Capt. Caldron, of Edmonton, who afterwards was nominated for election by the Overseas voters as an M.P.P. for Alberta Legislature. Major Newman, of Brantford, Ontario, succeeded him. He returned to Canada. Lieut. Donnan, M.C., succeeded Major Newman as Hospital representative, and has proven an acquisition to the unit both departmentally and socially.

The Dental Surgeons who have been attached here have all been graduates of the

Ontario Royal College of Dentistry, University of Toronto. Capt. Lough hailed from Winnipeg, Capt. Munroe from Saskatoon,

and Capt. Atkey, at the time of writing officer in charge Dental Clinic at Bear Wood, from Toronto.

Athletics.

Athletics have always been fostered to the utmost. Allocation in such delightful country surroundings could not but lend itself to such healthful undertakings. The first season we endeavoured to play Association football, but were nearly always out-classed by the local teams in the vicinity. When the second season came along, thanks to the enthusiastic support of Hon. Major and Chaplain Bayley, we were able to make a change. Thirty games were



Football Team, 1916-17



Baseball Nine.

played with the best teams within a radius of 20 miles. Twenty-five games were won, four games were lost, and one game was played for a draw; 106 goals were scored by the home team, and 35 goals were scored against them. Football has continued to be Bear Wood's favourite.

Baseball was undertaken in 1916, and a team placed in the London Area League. Bear Wood was able to retain fourth place, but owing to mismanagement of the team,

it was deemed advisable to abandon the undertaking. Until mismanagement became grossly evident, the entertainment was very popular with the patients, and provided them with many excellent afternoons. It is quite essential that an officer playing member should be available to supervise such adventures. This, at the time, Bear Wood did not possess.

Cricket was developed to provide the gap caused by the withdrawal of baseball. In



Keenly Contested Event.

1917 this Hospital met with very considerable success, and the game, when well played

duction on the cricket crease of the noisy rooting of the Canadian patients as in baseball.



Roy and Monkey Win Mixed Doubles.



View Across West Terrace.

and the home team winning, proved quite interesting to the patients. Visiting local teams were very much surprised at the intro-

Tennis has been developed to the extent of seven grass courts. It is popular with the patients and staff, and is watched by

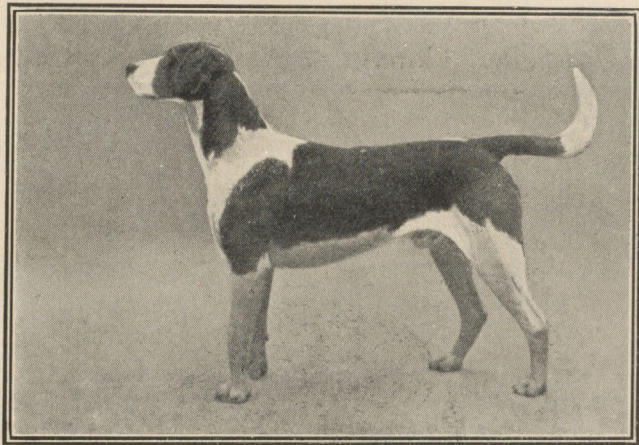
many during tournaments and matches with visiting players.

Bowling on the green proves a considerable boon to many cripples, as also does croquet.

Boating is exceedingly popular, and is facilitated by the loan of a sail boat, three canoes, a beautiful mahogany punt and two row-boats by Mr. Walter, and four Thames

the Garth Hunt assembling in the Hospital grounds on clear, bright autumn mornings. Bear Wood Hospital won the cup for walking the best puppy for this kennel in 1917. "Comrade" has developed into such a fine dog, he is fit for stud purposes at the age of one year.

Many of the neighbouring game preserves have been beaten by the Bear Wood patients



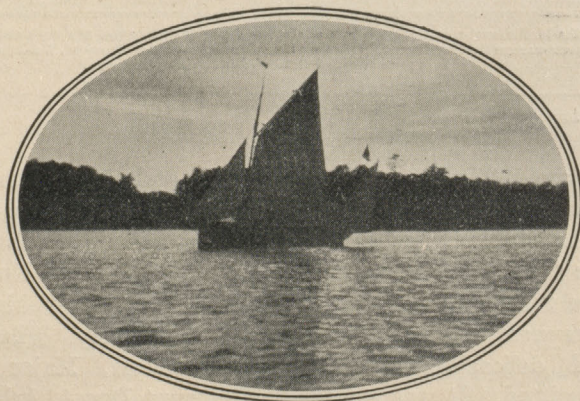
"Comrade" (Raglan) (Hemlock).

river row-boats, purchased chiefly by regimental funds. All have been repaired and maintained jointly by the Canadian Red Cross Society and the local Y.M.C.A. A canoe contributed by Mrs. Wilson Noble and a river boat by Mrs. Beeton-Foster have been added to the fleet during the year 1918.

Officers and patients are always welcome to follow the Garth Foxhounds or the local basset hounds in season. Many a delightful spectacle has been provided by

and shot over by the staff. Many a happy luncheon, enjoyed by all, has been provided by the kind hospitality of neighbouring gentlemen.

It is desired to record our appreciation to the Bear Wood Estate; Mr. Vincent Craig, Bill Hill; Lord Braybrooke, Billing Bear; Mr. Hadfield, Church Farm, Waltam St. Lawrence; Mr. Colebrook, Manor Farm, Finchampstead; Mr. Sturgis, Barkham Square; and Mr. Vere Alfrey, for many delightful outings.



"Flora" at her best on the Lake.

Red Letter Days.

Fête days at this happy home of Canadians in England have been many and of the most enjoyable type.

Christmas, 1915, was the first, and was

by our generous and constant provider (Cowie, the butler) from his strong room. Many guests arrived to dine with the patients from the neighbouring country residences,



By courtesy of "The Bystander."

enjoyed to the extreme. The Art Gallery of the mansion was given over entirely to merriment. The tables were set in the form of a letter "E" and beautifully decorated with all the seasonable things for such an occasion, capped with an abundance of fruit and delicacies, excellent crackers not being omitted. It was a wonderful sight, the walls garlanded with greens, holly and festoons, the table more than provided with luxurious candelabra supplied

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Walter, uncle of the owner of the mansion, and Mrs. Henley, Mr. John Simmonds, daughter and granddaughter, of Newlands, Mrs. Murdoch, of Buckhurst, Wokingham, and daughter, Mr. Courteney Wilson, Winnerish Grove, and sisters, Major Foster, O.C. No. 4 Remount Depot, Arborfield, and sister, the wife of the officer commanding, and members of the Glenmore Ladies' Orchestra. A most happy evening was spent, ending up

with a dance. Perhaps the brightest moment was the dismantling of the Christmas tree and the presentation of gifts to each and all assembled. At this time, several officer



Greasy Pole.

patients were accommodated here and added very much to the perfection of arrangements and their completion without a hitch. Three of the six officer patients have since been killed on returning to active service.

May 24, 1916, was celebrated in truly Canadian fashion. The band of the Royal Berkshire Regimental Depot arrived early and provided excellent music for the entire day, thanks to the kindness of their Officer Commanding, Colonel Chase, who served with his regiment in Halifax, Canada, for a period. A baseball game was played in the forenoon and field sports of every character were run off in the afternoon on the beautiful West Terrace. Prizes to winners were distributed in the evening and a concert provided to bring a delightful day to a close.

July 1, Dominion Day, was yet a greater achievement, the variation being that the morning was devoted to all kinds of aquatic sports, swimming races, greasy pole, water polo, and other fêtes, both healthful and entertaining. Patients were allowed to have their friends remain, tea being provided for them. In the evening, following the presentation of prizes to the winners of the events, a theatrical per-

formance "Are you a Mason?" was given in the new Recreation Hut just completed by the Canadian Red Cross Society, for the use of the patients. The farce was excellently rendered by a London party, and an appreciative audience packed the house.

An excellent afternoon was afforded the patients here by the Committee of the Blue Cross Society of Reading. A baseball match was arranged between the team of this Hospital and that of the Ontario Military (Government) Hospital, Orpington.

The game was played at Reading Grounds, Elm Park; 400 patients proceeded to Reading from Sindlesham Station, and were met there by a band, and marched to the Grounds, and street cars followed them to pick up any who might feel unequal to this walk. The game proved a victory for our men, and each player received a medal. All were entertained to tea by the Committee, and everyone was exceedingly happy.

Thanksgiving Day was observed with seasonable decorations for dining hall, special American dishes, and a bang-up Concert in the Recreation Hut in the evening.



Tilting Canoe.

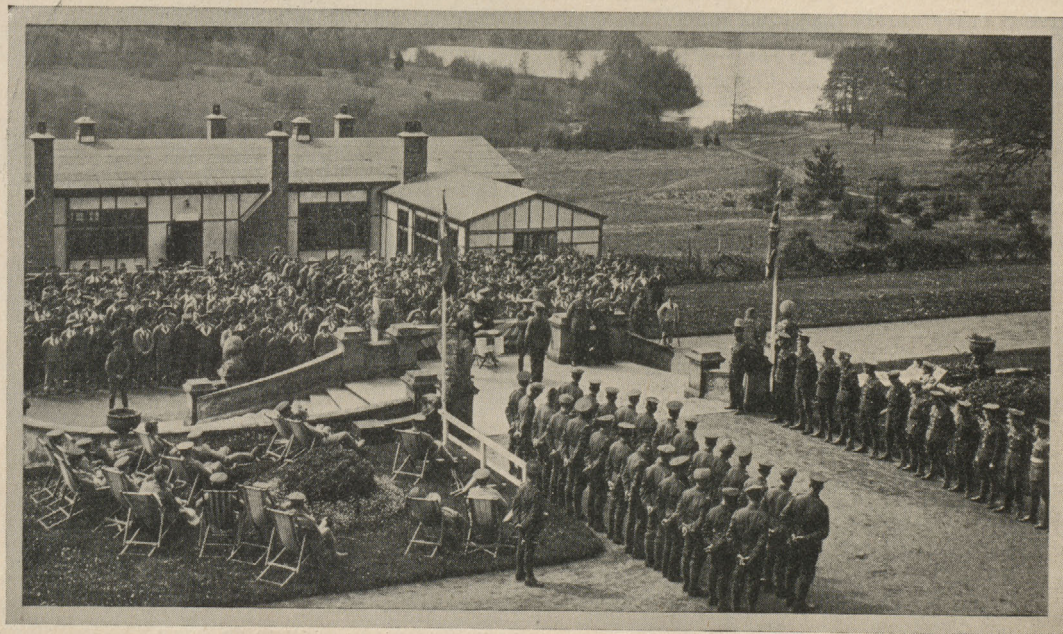
Several official presentations of medals, D.S.O. and M.M., to recipients whom we were fortunate enough to have the privilege of temporarily caring for, were made here.



Presentation of Medals.]

Surgeon-General Jones officiated once, Lieut.-General Turner on several occasions, Lieut.-Col. Godson-Godson, Lieut.-Col. Remnant, Bart., Major-General Hodgins, Brigadier-General Hill, C.R.E., Aldershot, and the Officer Commanding enjoyed the honour of officiating. With the exception of two occasions the band was always present, men drawn up on three sides of the square, and the ceremony completed amidst the most picturesque surroundings, either on the north or south terrace, or at the Sun Dial, west lawn, which with its four sentinel evergreen trees almost suggests an altar effect. July 4, 1917, was featured by the presentations on the baseball field of a Military Medal

to an American citizen of Des Moines, who won it fighting as a Canadian Tommy, by Lieut.-General Sir Richard Turner, V.C., K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O. Christmas, 1916, was different from that of 1915, in that the Canadian Colony of Bear Wood had more than doubled in number. Three dining halls were profusely decorated, and seasonable delicacies were provided in abundance. Great care was taken to make tables as homelike, clean, bright, and appetizing as possible. The *personnel* acted as hosts, and were delighted with the results of their efforts. The Bearwood Farm band visited all dining halls during the meals, and greatly amused the men. The patients were simply overcome with pleasure and gratitude, the genuine Canadian gratitude which will not permit of words, and which becomes very trying if the gaze is too long in interpreting it. Each patient received a metal cigarette case with "Bearwood 1916" stamped on same, provided by local Y.M.C.A., as well as three other gifts each, provided from other sources. The Canadian Red Cross Society sent wonderful Christmas stockings and writing wallets, as well as con-



Presentation of Medals by Sir Richard Turner, V.C.

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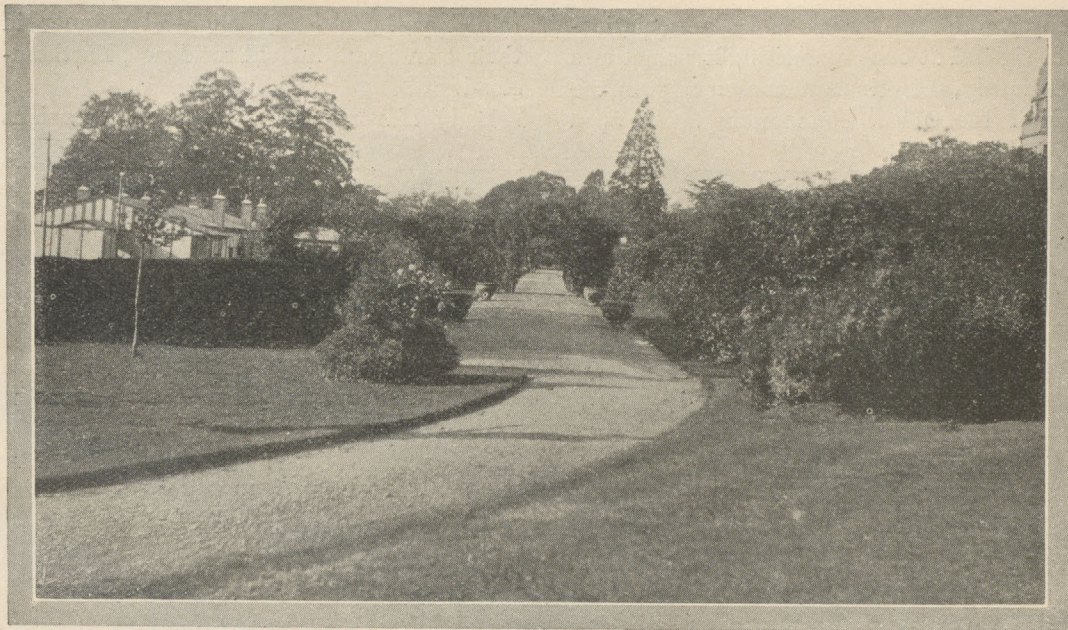
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Friends who have interested themselves in this Hospital are numerous and genuine. Mrs. Murdoch, of Buckhurst, Wokingham, has always been a local booster for Bear Wood and its charges, and has more than once befriended them by giving frequent entertainments at her country home as well as interesting her many friends in our behalf.

Mr. John Simonds, Newlands, Arborfield, and daughters have always been hospitable to staff and patients, constantly including in their dinner parties officers from the staff, who are so far from home and corresponding Canadian privileges. Miss Beatrice Simonds has created amongst the sick ward patients considerable interest in art needlework.

The Beeton-Fosters, of Sindlesham House, were among the earliest to call and pay their respects to the Canadian newcomers and are still constantly proffering us their sympathy, hospitality, and material assistance, having contributed a Thames River boat to the fleet of recreation craft maintained on the lake.

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General Sir Richard Turner, V.C., Meeting the Nursing Sisters.

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to carry on this branch of the Reading district work.

Mr. and Mrs. Howkins, Sindlesham Mill, have constantly interested themselves in the welfare of the Canadians here. Many enjoyable afternoons of tennis have resulted from their hospitality.

Mr. Lowry, Thames Conservancy staff, has conveyed many happy parties of patients from here on his different launches from Reading.

Y.M.C.A.

The extent of the activities of the Y.M.C.A. are worthy of note, as really it has proven to be a friend indeed. During the period of 20 months 594 days, 83 of which were Sundays, £8,628 13s. 7d. were taken over the counter. The highest takings for one day were £41 11s. 3d. Another concrete example of the activities of this canteen is that in September, 1917, one ton nine hundred and sixty-six pounds of fruit were sold, and during the next month two and a quarter tons, chiefly apples. From the above receipts the sum of £825 13s. 2d. was paid out for recreation purposes—outdoor sports and entertainments. Three hundred and fourteen shows were staged in the Recreation Hut (Red Cross) during the twenty months by arrangement of the Y.M.C.A., viz., 126 concerts, 125

picture shows, 36 dramatic performances, and 27 illustrated lectures. In addition to the above, a religious meeting was held every Friday evening of a nature which appealed to the boys. During January, 1918, a change of leaders was necessary owing to Mr. Starkey leaving for a new field of work near Manchester. It was deemed a good time to change to Canadian Army Y.M.C.A. supervision. Arrangements were completed and all stock was purchased, including equipment and the Hut, costing \$3,500.00. which was paid for by the Canadian Y.M.C.A. This closed a most happy association with Reading Y.M.C.A., which has been appreciatively referred to more than once in these records. Outstanding personalities in these successful undertakings were Mr. Martin



South Elevation.

Sutton, White Knights, Earley, and Mr. Leonard Sutton, Hillside, Reading.

The Canadian Administration of the Y.M.C.A. Canteen has now been in operation for a period of five months ending June 30, 1918. The total takings have amounted to £3,327 16s. 6d. a monthly average of £665 11s. 5d., the highest takings for any one day were £48 14s. 6d.

Lieut. Mutchmore, a very active efficient officer, has been in charge since the inception of the Canadian Service and was only recently succeeded by a competent capable officer Captain Snider from France. Both officers understand the Canadian soldier, his whims and fancies, and have endeavoured always to meet his every wish.

Concerts during this period have numbered 53. The average cost has been £4 and the total attendance 25,040. Lectures numbering 10 have been provided, drawing a total attendance of 2,888. Cinema shows numbering 29 have been well attended, totalling 11,590, costing on the average £2 per evening. Religious services in the Canteen Hut numbering 38, with a total attendance of 2,178, have been held.

The library has been patronized to the extent of 1,737 books.

Occasional Whist Drives for the sick ward patients have been arranged and very much appreciated.

All athletic supplies are paid for by the Y.M.C.A., and every encouragement is given to the patients to play baseball, cricket, tennis, bowls, &c. Prizes for field day sports, May 24 and July 1, were provided by the canteen at a total cost of £29 18s. 6d. A further £20 has been paid on the exchange of Canadian Red Cross dynamo for a more efficient one to improve cinema pictures.

Extension work of 10 concerts given to Reading Hospitals and athletic equipment to Canadian Section of the R.A.F., Reading, have contributed to a grand total of excellent service.

The work of the Y.M.C.A. canteen would not be complete without due reference to the very important asset: its lady voluntary workers, who, rain or shine, invariably are present, morning and afternoon, to cater to the wants of the Canadian boys. Miss Beatrice Simmonds, Newlands, at the request of the Officer Commanding, undertook in 1916 to organize the voluntary assistance, and has since, through the generous cooperation and kindness of the ladies enumerated below, maintained this staff, so much appre-

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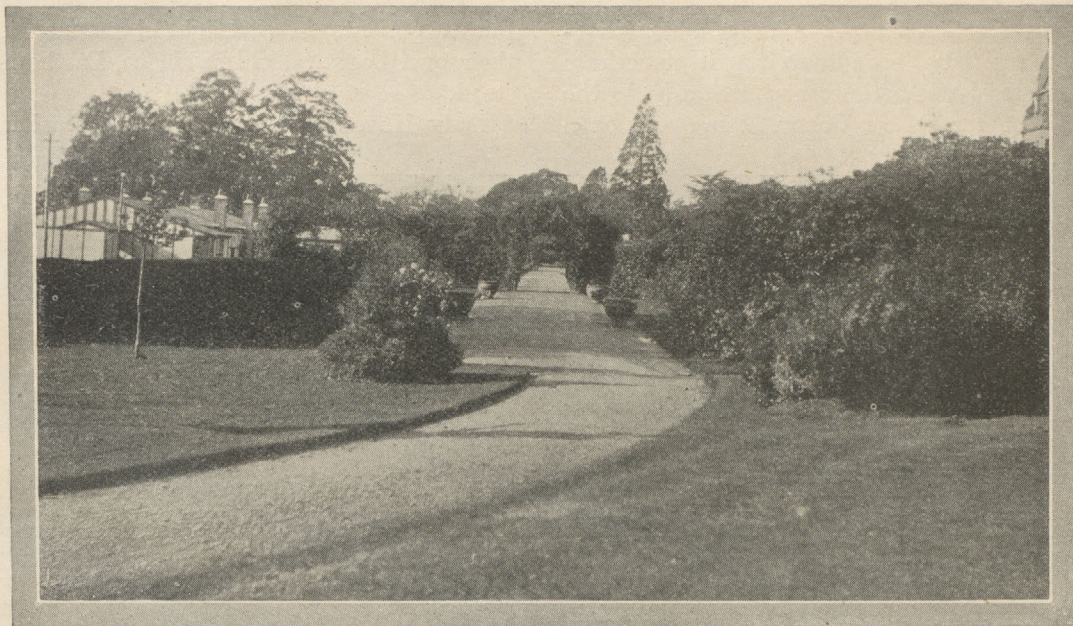
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Mr. Lowry, Thames Conservancy staff, has conveyed many happy parties of patients from here on his different launches from Reading.

Y.M.C.A.

The extent of the activities of the Y.M.C.A. are worthy of note, as really it has proven to be a friend indeed. During the period of 20 months 594 days, 83 of which were Sundays, £8,628 13s. 7d. were taken over the counter. The highest takings for one day were £41 11s. 3d. Another concrete example of the activities of this canteen is that in September, 1917, one ton nine hundred and sixty-six pounds of fruit were sold, and during the next month two and a quarter tons, chiefly apples. From the above receipts the sum of £825 13s. 2d. was paid out for recreation purposes—outdoor sports and entertainments. Three hundred and fourteen shows were staged in the Recreation Hut (Red Cross) during the twenty months by arrangement of the Y.M.C.A., viz., 126 concerts, 125

picture shows, 36 dramatic performances, and 27 illustrated lectures. In addition to the above, a religious meeting was held every Friday evening of a nature which appealed to the boys. During January, 1918, a change of leaders was necessary owing to Mr. Starkey leaving for a new field of work near Manchester. It was deemed a good time to change to Canadian Army Y.M.C.A. supervision. Arrangements were completed and all stock was purchased, including equipment and the Hut, costing \$3,500.00. which was paid for by the Canadian Y.M.C.A. This closed a most happy association with Reading Y.M.C.A., which has been appreciatively referred to more than once in these records. Outstanding personalities in these successful undertakings were Mr. Martin



South Elevation.

Sutton, White Knights, Earley, and Mr. Leonard Sutton, Hillside, Reading.

The Canadian Administration of the Y.M.C.A. Canteen has now been in operation for a period of five months ending June 30, 1918. The total takings have amounted to £3,327 16s. 6d. a monthly average of £665 11s. 5d., the highest takings for any one day were £48 14s. 6d.

Lieut. Mutchmore, a very active efficient officer, has been in charge since the inception of the Canadian Service and was only recently succeeded by a competent capable officer Captain Snider from France. Both officers understand the Canadian soldier, his whims and fancies, and have endeavoured always to meet his every wish.

Concerts during this period have numbered 53. The average cost has been £4 and the total attendance 25,040. Lectures numbering 10 have been provided, drawing a total attendance of 2,888. Cinema shows numbering 29 have been well attended, totalling 11,590, costing on the average £2 per evening. Religious services in the Canteen Hut numbering 38, with a total attendance of 2,178, have been held.

The library has been patronized to the extent of 1,737 books.

Occasional Whist Drives for the sick ward patients have been arranged and very much appreciated.

All athletic supplies are paid for by the Y.M.C.A., and every encouragement is given to the patients to play baseball, cricket, tennis, bowls, &c. Prizes for field day sports, May 24 and July 1, were provided by the canteen at a total cost of £29 18s. 6d. A further £20 has been paid on the exchange of Canadian Red Cross dynamo for a more efficient one to improve cinema pictures.

Extension work of 10 concerts given to Reading Hospitals and athletic equipment to Canadian Section of the R.A.F., Reading, have contributed to a grand total of excellent service.

The work of the Y.M.C.A. canteen would not be complete without due reference to the very important asset: its lady voluntary workers, who, rain or shine, invariably are present, morning and afternoon, to cater to the wants of the Canadian boys. Miss Beatrice Simmonds, Newlands, at the request of the Officer Commanding, undertook in 1916 to organize the voluntary assistance, and has since, through the generous cooperation and kindness of the ladies enumerated below, maintained this staff, so much appre-



A Peep from the East.

ciated by the men :—Miss Wilson, Miss E. N. Wilson, Miss Cobham, Miss Garland, and Miss Philbrick, who have been associated with the service since the beginning ; Mrs. Arnett, Mrs. Hewett, Mrs. Hutson, Mrs. Lemieux, while their Officers were resident at this Hospital, and Mrs. Ditchfield of the Rectory, Barkham, Miss E. C. Garland, Miss P. Philbrick, Mrs. Duncan Spiller, Mrs. Stephens, Miss Allfrey, Miss Browning, Miss Bishop, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Marr, and the wife of the Officer Commanding. The Officer Commanding extends his very sincere thanks to the Y.M.C.A. lady workers for their untiring efforts on behalf of the patients here, and also his appreciation of the beneficial moral influence and happiness their presence has caused.

The Ontario Provincial Government, through the Premier, Sir Wm. Hearst, and his local representatives, Agent-General Lieut.-Col. Reid and Deputy Agent-General Major Clark, have caused a constant flow of beautiful Canadian apples, Canadian canned fruits, periodicals, and personal comforts for the patients here, to arrive in ample quantities at Bear Wood. What a boon this has been to our boys has been emphasized in letters of appreciation more than once.

The Canadian Press during these trying times has, at considerable personal expense, provided this Hospital, gratis, with an abundance of home reading matter. Every mail-ship arriving has evidenced the fact by the appearance in our reading room of fresh news from all parts of our great Dominion. The genuine appreciation of the patients and the grateful thanks of the Officer Commanding are tendered to the Toronto papers : *Saturday Night, Sunday World, Jack Canuck, Globe, Canadian Courier, Mail and Empire, World, Evening News, and The Star* ; *The Kingston British Whig, Port Hope Weekly Guide, Hamilton Herald, Brantford Daily Expositor, Thorold Semi-Weekly Post, Welland Telegraph, Almont Gazette, Niagara Falls Gazette and The Evening Review, Port Elgin Times, The London Free Press and The Advertiser, The Blenheim News, Tribune, St. Mary's Journal, Parry Sound North Star, Port Arthur News and Chronicle, Fort William Times Journal, The Dryden Observer and Star, The Keewatin Enterprise, and The Waterford Star* ; the Winnipeg papers—*The Manitoba Free Press and The Evening Tribune* ; *The Prince Albert Daily Herald, Regina Daily Herald, Saskatoon Phoenix, Saskatoon Daily Star, the Wolseley News* from Saskatchewan ;

the weekly and morning *Albertian*, *The Calgary Albertian*, *Edmonton Journal*, and the *Hanna Herald* from Alberta; *The Vancouver Daily Province*, *The World and Victoria Colonist*, *Nainamo Free Press* from British Columbia, *The Dawson Weekly News* from the Yukon, *The Quebec Telegraph*, *The Montreal Herald*, and *The Standard* from Quebec Province, *Daily Gleaner*, Fredericton, *The St. John Globe*, and *The Evening Times* and *Star* from New Brunswick, and *The*

Halifax Evening Mail, *Morning Chronicle*, and *The Sydney Post*, *Yarmouth Telegram*, *Yarmouth Herald*, *Truro Daily News*, *Truro Citizen*, *Outlook*, Middleton, from Nova Scotia; *Evening Guardian*, Charlstown, Prince Edward Island; *International*, Portal, North Dakota, U.S.A. *Evening Bulletin*, Philadelphia, Penn., *Seattle Sunday Times*, U.S.A., and papers from F. C. Campbell, Winnipeg, as well as the illustrated weekly *Canada*.

July, 1918.

In bringing the records to a close at the end of two complete years, it is most fitting that reference be made to an opportunity which occurred for fraternizing between our benefactor, Mr. John Walter, and Major-General Foster, C.B., Director Medical Services, Overseas Military Forces of Canada.

An accidental meeting of Major-General G. L. Foster, C.B., Director of Medical Services, Lieut.-Col. Amyot, C.M.G., Professor of Hygiene, University of Toronto, and adviser of sanitation to the D.M.S. Canadians, with Col. Rudolf, C.B.E., Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto, Consultant of Medicine, Canadians, and Lieut.-Col. John Stewart, Professor of Surgery, Dalhousie University, Consultant in Surgery, Canadians, on the same morning as Mr. John Walter, donor of the Mansion, returned from British Propaganda work in Spain, afforded the impetus for a memorable luncheon at the Officers' Mess of this Unit. It was the only occasion on which Mr. Walter had honoured the Mess with his presence in two years, owing to his absence from England, and the presence of our Director

with the three other Canadian Medical Leaders was a happy coincidence. Mr. John Walter was very courteous in his remarks as to the surprisingly excellent state of his property as he found it after such a long occupation, and expressed his great pleasure and deep sense of gratitude he felt in having been granted the opportunity of having Bear Wood used for such magnificent work, the present magnitude of which had never been anticipated. Major-General G. L. Foster, C.B., assured Mr. John Walter of the sincere appreciation of the Canadian authorities of the generous hospitality afforded this Unit by their happy occupation of his residence, and remarked in a feeling manner upon the entire absence of friction of the slightest nature during our residence here. He referred to the individual gratitude of the thousands of Canadian patients who had been fortunate enough to enjoy the beautiful haunts of nature at Bear Wood, and stated that they would carry home to Canana indelible impressions of goodwill recorded while in his home, which would do much to strengthen the Imperial ties that bind Canada to the Motherland.



Obituary.

These records would not be complete without a reference to our departed comrades. Two patients have died at Bear Wood since its inception, and two patients moved to Reading War Hospital died a few days after their transfer there. One patient who died here was removed for burial by his relatives to Stirling, Scotland. The other three, along with Flight-Lieut. J. D. P. Scholfield, R.F.C., were buried with full military honours in the peaceful, beautifully kept cemetery of St. Catherine's Church. All have quartered oak crosses erected, with brass tablets placed on same, by their Bear Wood comrades. Further, a brass tablet has been placed in St. Catherine's Church by the Officer Commanding and the members of the Sergeants' Mess in loving memory of Flight-Lieuts. Scholfield and Pilling, both killed while flying in England. Both were excellent characters, members of the staff of this Hospital previous to their joining the Air Service.



St. Catherine's Church.
Canadian Graves in Foreground.

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Chronicle of the Hospital "Bear Wood"

July 1st, 1918 to Closing

During the month of October 1918, owing to the extremely heavy fighting of the Canadian forces in France, hospital pressure increased to a marked degree. It was deemed advisable to enlarge to the limit of our capacity and therefore, our establishment was temporarily increased by sixty beds, making this unit a 760 bed hospital. The beds were located in the Canadian Red Cross recreation hut, which made an ideal ward unit. The concerts, during this conversion were held in the mansion dining room. After November eleventh, 1918, Armistice Day, we were further requested to receive up to 100 repatriated Canadian prisoners from Germany, at any time and given authority to draw equipment from army ordnance for 100 additional hospital strength,—to be carried as an emergency establishment. Actually during November, it would have been permissible to consider our hospital as an 860-bed unit. Saturday, November ninth, 1918, found us with 853 patients in hospital, the largest number we have ever had. During the same month our discharges reached the high figure of 1,045. During the later part of December, the Khaki University of Canada, through their representative, Lieut. R. P. Griffin, undertook to establish a teaching staff here and opened classes for instruction in several branches of the patients and members of the staff.

This unit lost an efficient, energetic registrar and adjutant in Capt. Nathaniel McDonald, who proceeded on transport duty during December. He was relieved by Capt. McKinnon, a well known surgeon of Ottawa. Capt. McKinnon was transferred to the Canadian General Hospital at Kirkdale, Liverpool, for duty, after the patients were withdrawn from this unit on March 13th, 1919.

The institution was used from this date till June, as a depot for nursing sisters, proceed-

ing to Canada. A very capable matron, Miss Cornell, from the Canadian General Hospital, Kitchener, Brighton, was detailed to take charge of this service. Nursing sister McKay acted as assistant matron and Nursing Sister Michie assumed the duties of home sister.

All equipment (army) of every description was despatched to the different depots and clearances were received for same, early in July.

Quartermaster Capt. Haylett and staff were transferred to the Ontario Government Canadian General Hospital, at Orpington, for duty. It is only proper that it should be stated that surpluses in hospital equipment, were found when balancing with the ledger and that shortages were not established in the final audit of the equipment of this hospital, this being the second audit by the Quartermaster General's inspection branch of this hospital, to find this excellent condition.

The staff and all those associated with the hospital were unstinted in their expression of appreciation of the decoration of "Officer of the British Empire" gazetted in the King's Birthday Honors for their officer commanding.

The officer commanding was returned to Canada, arriving at Montreal, August 16th, 1919. A substaff of four was left at the hospital to protect the property until such time, as it could be turned over to the civilian owners. Everyone was pleased to learn that Bear Wood was to be developed into a home and training school for the orphan children of the officers and masters of the merchant marine, immediately it could be vacated as a Canadian hospital for Canadian soldiers. The wall gardens, work shops, picturesque woodlands and lakes, along with the delightful and extensive pleasure grounds, acquired by the Marine Corporation, will make an ideal institution.

The Staff

Capt. A. Collins, (Niagara Falls, Ont.), served with this unit and received his majority, then being transferred for duty to the A.D.M.S., London area. Capt. J. A. Forsythe served a short time and was killed at sea on his way home to Canada. He was an interesting Klondyker. Lieutenants Sinclair, Munro, Minorgan and Robertson, all recent graduates served at this hospital and received their captaincy. Major Allan Beech rejoined this unit, on his way back to Canada and brought with him Capt. J. Wark. Two of the medical officers of civilian surgical distinction, were

omitted from the original press, much to the regret of the officer commanding, namely Capt. Ferris, of Edmonton, a delightful companionable fellow and Capt. J. A. Bell, of Sarnia, an old medical benefactor to the O. C. in the student days of the officer commanding.

The death in England, of an ex-member of this staff, in the person of Capt. Palling, of Barrie, Ont., is announced with deep regret. He was a sterling man of more than mature age. His end, was no doubt materially hastened by his zeal and earnest application to military duties.

The Nursing Sisters

The following nursing sisters had served on the staff of this hospital, previous to the patients being withdrawn: M. B. Arbuckle, Grace Darling, M. C. Kerr, R. A. McClelland, E. C. Bolster, J. A. Clarke, M. N. Henderson,

M. Mussilman, K. E. Whitton and H. D. Shearer. Nursing Sister Isabella Wilson, of London, Ontario, was acting sister in charge during this period.

Chaplains and Attached Services

Capt. C. K. Nicol another Klondyker, was an exceedingly useful padre. He was transferred to Rhyl Camp to make peace with the Canadians there.

The pay corps had the following representatives at Bear Wood before closing: Lieut. Hale, J.A., a Nova Scotian Royal banker; Capt. Carson a casualty from France; Capt. A. C. McFarland, of the Standard bank, Lindsay, another casualty from France; Capt. Fraser was another pay officer, who contributed his quota of satisfactory service at Bear Wood. Capt. Hathaway, an excellent tennis player, also a casualty from France, served here, as well as Capt. Sherman, Assist. General Manager of the Royal Bank, returned from France.

The Dental Corps, have had Capts. Larmour, De Witt and Stone, attached for duty. Capt.

Stone hails from the home town of the officer commanding. Capt. Lough, transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and was doing excellent service in France, previous to the armistice, proving himself an excellent flyer.

The Khaki University of Canada had three officers attached for teaching purposes, namely: Lieut. Dyre, son of Brig-Gen. Dyre, in Agriculture; Lieut. Wallace in Languages, and Lieut. Mitchell, C.E., in charge of Mathematics, originally from Blenheim, Ontario, where his father practiced medicine.

The Adjutant General's office had the following representatives here: Capt. Colquhoun, M.C., of Hamilton, an ex-P.P.C.L.I. officer, following Mr. Donnan, M.C., Capt. A. P. Smythe was the last officer of this service at Bear Wood.

Athletics

A regrettable omission was made in the original publication of the brochure on this hospital, in that three full-sized English billiard tables complete, provided gratis, were not mentioned, one from Mr. John Walter, for the use of the officers, one from Mr. Martin Sutton, White Knights Earleigh Reading, for the use of the patients, was accepted by the Y.M.C.A. and placed for play in the Canadian Red Cross Recreation Hut, and the third one loaned to the Y.M.C.A. by Mr. Martin, ex-mayor of Wokingham, was used for the soldiers in the Y.M.C.A. Hut. All three tables have been a source of unending pleasure and our misfortune in not having recorded our appreciation to our benefactors, is very distressing to us.

Baseball games were played frequently, with success to the home team, thanks to the great enthusiasm of Capt. Nat. MacDonald and others. The excellent playing suits and equip-

ment provided by the Y.M.C.A., assisting to attract players of a very desirable type.

Cricket was played, but not with the same enthusiasm and success as previously. The stiffening lost in the departure of Capt. Hutson and Capt. Hewett, was very evident in both the play and interest.

Football flourished as usual and Bear Wood had almost as good a team as previously. It was by far the most successful athletic undertaking during this period. Major Bayley and three other players of our team played on the team chosen to represent the Canadians in Paris at the international games at Pershing Stadium in 1919.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge appreciation to Mr. John Simonds, "Newlands," East Hampstead Estate, and Mr. Wm. Hissie, for the excellent sport provided in shooting their covers.

Red Letter Days

DOMINION DAY

The morning provided delightfully warm bright weather. The Hospital and grounds were beflagged and decorated by sergeants' mess. A procession was formed at 8.30 a.m., and led by the 12th, Regimental Depot Canadian Band, proceeded to west of lake near the works. An excellent programme, aquatic sports was run, contests being keen and interest excellent. The arrangements were better organized and provision more ample than on any previous occasion. There was practically no delay between events. This portion of the day's programme was completed by 11.45 a.m. At 1.30 p.m., the afternoon programme of Field Sports was run off on the West Terrace and was very well attended by civilians and others, friends of the patients and personnel. The heat of the day was very trying indeed. The prizes were, probably, the best we have ever had for such an occasion and were distributed to the winners at 5.30 p.m. An excellent entertainment provided by the Three Arts Club of London was staged in the Canadian Red Cross Recreation Hut and brought the celebrations to a successful close.

SATURDAY JULY SIX

Local Q.M.A.A.C. Personnel entertained fifty Q.M.A.A.C. from Central Hostel, Aldershot. Field sports were held. Excellent prizes were provided by the wife of Officer Commandin. Sisters' Mess, Officers' Mess and Sergeants' Mess. An excellent afternoon was enjoyed opening with an entertainment by our Q.M. A.A.C. Pierot Troup. The contests were keen. The prizes were presented by Sir Edward Kemp, Overseas Minister of Militia for Canada. Major-General Foster, C.B., Brigadier-General Hogarth, D.S.O., Quartermaster-General and Colonel Ross, C.B., C.M.G. D. D. M. S. France, looked on at the sports and had tea.

NOVEMBER 11th Monday

ARMISTICE DAY

At 11 a.m., sirens, bells and all noise instruments in Reading announced armistice signed between Germany and the Allies. It was a joyous sound and at first, all ranks were so pleased and grateful, that silence and wonderment seemed to reign rather, than cheering.

Soldiers of all ranks took on a smiling countenance of relief from anxiety which truly was divine. They appeared mentally quite unprepared for the new condition of things, but were very thankful.

At 12.12, noon, a general assembly brought all ranks, sisters and Q.M.A.A.C. included, to the parade ground, North Terrace, and formed into a parade. The O.C. and Hon.-Capt. and Chaplain Nicol, took up a position in front of the flag pole. The O.C. addressed the parade, laying emphasis upon the gratitude we should feel at this moment, for a victorious conclusion of hostilities, informed the men to constantly keep in mind their fallen comrades and the dependents of those departed and asked all to bow their heads while the padre offered up a prayer concluding with the Lord's Prayer in unison. This completed, the O.C. informed the men that all machinery would be worked at high pressure to dispose of them from hospital as quickly as possible and that their return to Canada had all been arranged and would prove more satisfactory than the rosiest anticipation of six months ago. They were urged to be prompt in attendance for all treatments and parades associated with discharge proceedings and asked to give three hearty cheers for the King and Navy. This was most heartily complied with, adding a tiger.

The patients formed up a parade later in the day and with a volunteer drum and bugle band, proceeded to the adjoining town of Wokingham, where they attended, and were addressed by, the Mayor, from the balcony of the Town Hall.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24 1918

Pipe Band of the 4th Reserve Battalion, Witley, arrived for duty, under their efficient Pipe Major Pollock. Everything is in readiness for the celebration of the happiest Christmas Bear Wood Canadians have had.

DEC 25th 1918

The fourth Christmas celebrated by Canadians at Bear Wood began by a pipe reveille at 6 a.m. and distribution by the Officers, Sisters and Personnel of Canadian Red Cross stockings and a descriptive brochure of the Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Bear Wood, gift of the local Y.M.C.A. canteen. The men were delightfully surprised at being molested in the dark hours of the morning from their slumbers, by such messengers bringing real tokens of happy Christmas greetings. Church parade was held at 9.30 a.m., then came a few moments of relaxation till 2 p.m., when all the patients sat down in the Mansion, to tables artistically decorated by the nursing sisters, amid walls garlanded and ceilings hidden by the effusion of seasonable festoons and other greens. The tables were laden with oranges, nuts, apples (gift of the Province of Ontario), soft drinks, crackers, and other essentials to a properly caped white Christmas table. Thanks to the untiring efforts of the personnel of the Q.M.A.A.C. and the ample provision of the Christmas committee, through Hon.-Capt. and Quartermaster Haylett, the boys were confronted with a happy task which actually proved to be beyond their ability to entirely dispose of. The Officer Commanding addressed a few words of greeting to the patients and asked them to show their appreciation of the efforts of the staff in behalf of a happy Christmas for them, by remaining at the table until the ample supply of delicacies had been entirely disposed of. This apparently met with approval.

At 3 p.m. a smoker was provided in the Canadian Red Cross Recreation Hut. Ample supplies of cigars and cigarettes were distributed. Entertainment was staged by three amusing boxing bouts and Highland and Irish dancing. The men appreciated the events very much and verbal comment and applause was really not restrained to the point desired by the committee. At 6 p.m. an excellent concert was given by the "Little Cheks" concert party from London. The leading lady being a vivacious young American girl whose dancing and well-chosen numbers met with the entire approval of the boys.

FRIDAY DEC 27 1918

Early supper was arranged and at 5 p.m., all officers, Q.M.A.A.C., personnel and patients assembled on Parade grounds and proceeded to Wokingham, led by the pipe band, to be the guests of the hospitable citizens of that burrough. They numbered 500. Upon arrival, the drill hall was found to be ablaze with excellent decorations, bright lights and hundreds of well dressed young ladies, the mayor and his committee being on the platform. The Pipe Band marched in and completed their selection, much to the delight of those assembled and then breaking off, made room for the balance of the parade, who entered the hall and were addressed on parade by the Mayor welcoming them in flattering words as to their war record overseas and happy associations at Bear Wood for the past four years. The men fell out and having deposited their overcoats and caps returned to the hall. The orchestra played a waltz and the Wokingham girls soon placed the boys absolutely at ease, thus making a most delightful evening enjoyable during every moment for every Canadian present. The dancing was interrupted at times by Grecian dancing by Miss Martin. Vocal selections and Highland dancing to pipes by the Band Pipe-Major. The refreshments were wonderful in the home type of provision, excellent pasteries, soft drinks, hot drinks and oranges and grapes in abundance for all, being passed several times during the evening. A most wonderful time was enjoyed by the boys. One of the happiest events in the history of the stay of Canadians in this delightful part of England.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 31 st 1918

D.G.M.S. phoned regretting inability to visit this Hospital today as arranged.

A bumper whist drive was given at 8 p.m. to patients, personnel and Q.M.A.A.C. and women clerks in Mansion. Nine prizes were given. Competition was keen and enjoyment all that could be desired. An excellent supper including Bear Wood Christmas cake and apples were provided. Dancing was continued from 23.00 o'clock until 1.00 o'clock and Old Year farewelled and the New Year greeted in a happy manner at 24 o'clock—long reveille was sounded north side of Mansion and nineteen shots fired.

This closes a very eventful year for this Hospital, one of the most successful of its history, one of the greatest in efficiency, one of the greatest in achievement and the happiest insofar as the Officer Commanding was concerned.

Local Friends and Helpers

Honorary Colonel and Chaplain, the Right Reverend Bishop de Pencier, New Westminster, Canada, visited this unit for duty, on two occasions to the great pleasure of the unit.

The Right Reverend The Bishop of Oxford, preached to the men of the hospital in St. Catherines church, giving a most animated exposition of England's unrest and tending towards approval of some phases of socialistic development.

Sir Wm. Osler and Lady Osler were interested visitors to this hospital and expressed themselves as pleased with the happy surroundings they found the Canadians in here.

Sir John Langman was a delightful visitor on more than one occasion to this hospital. His geniality, personal interest in all Canadians and his material assistance, were very much appreciated.

Sir Andrew MacPhail addressed the officers' mess upon "The Mysteries of the D.G.M.S. Office Canadians." His humorous and excellent exposition proved very enjoyable.

President Falconer, University of Toronto, visited this unit and gave the men and officers an inspiring address upon "Canada in 1918 and the Problems That Were Presenting Themselves for Solution, Bearing Upon Future Policy."

Prof. Wrong of the same university, chair of History, gave an excellent address to the unit upon "What the Canadian Government Is Ready To Do and Is Doing for the Canadians Returned From Service."

Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Burchell and Lady Burchell, visited Bear Wood in company with Major-General Foster, C.B., D.G.M.S., Canadians. Sir Charles had recently retired from the appointment of D.G.M.S., British Expeditionary Forces, France, and was about to proceed to India for duty. Sir Charles and Lady Burchell were charming visitors.

The Y.M.C.A. has continued to the end to render efficient service in every department to the men. The most appreciated innovation was the chartering, weekly, of a river passenger boat and taking 80 to 100 of the crippled patients, for a day on the picturesque Thames, and accepting hospitality from different English homes, including the Wilson-Nobels, Henley; the MacDonalds, Paingbourne and Sir Frank Crisp at Friar Park, Henley-on-Thames.

The library was used at the average of 15 exchanges daily, 1,000 books being available.

Miss Simonds, Newlands, owing to ill health, had to give up the duties associated with the supervision of the Voluntary Women Workers. At the suggestion of Miss Simonds, Miss Eve Wilson, Winnersh Grove, was requested, by the Officer Commanding, to assume charge, which Miss Wilson did, in a very efficient manner and with entire satisfaction to all concerned. Grateful thanks is herewith extended to Miss Simonds and Miss Wilson for the happy manner in which their difficult duties were respectively carried out.

The accompanying table of activities for the period in question tells a story immediately convincing.

Activity	No.	Average Attend.	Total Attend.
Bible Class	8	11	8
Boat Trips	5	86	433
Cinema Shows	5	370	1,850
Concerts	65	379	24,645
Good Night Services	43	36	1,546
Lectures	20	247	4,940
Religious Services..	48	64	3,108
Whist Drives	15	125	1,880
Grand Total			38,491

Enrollments in Khaki University correspondence courses 110

Canteen receipts, three thousand four hundred and five pounds, five pence.

Total money orders cashed for boys: Two thousand four hundred and seventy-two pounds, two shillings, three pence.

Mr. Smith, of the Times-Journal, Fort William, informs the writer that the credit for provision of Times-Journal to this hospital was due to the personal thoughtfulness of Magistrate W. W. O'Brien, who subscribed for the supply of the paper. This token of thoughtfulness on the part of the genial magistrate was very much appreciated.

Obituary

In addition to the four Canadians recorded previously, as buried in St. Catherines church yard, adjoining the hospital grounds, it is necessary to add three more: Lieutenant Thomson, of the British Artillery serving in Italy, who was laid at rest, near as possible, to the body of his home-town friend and companion, Flight-Lieutenant J. P. D. Schofield. A

member of the hospital staff who died of influenza, was removed to the home of his father in Wales for burial. Two Canadian combatant soldier patients, who also died from influenza, complete this sad list. All have English oak crosses and brass tablets erected over their graves by their comrades at Bear Wood.

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