

A Souvenir of the . . .  
Visit of H. M. the King.



**First Eastern General Hospital.**

**3rd August, 1916.**

**Price 1/6.**



A Souvenir of the Visit  
of  
H. M. the King.

August 3, 1916.

The Text incorporated was written by  
Colonel Joseph Griffiths, C.M.G., T.D.,  
Officer Commanding 1st Eastern General Hospital Unit.

Cambridge :

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## Foreword.

*It occurred to several who had the pleasure of being at the 1st Eastern General Hospital the day His Majesty the King paid his second visit that a souvenir of the visit in the form of a series of photographs would be welcomed by the public.*

*This collection of reproductions of photographs illustrates :—*

1. *Some of the events in the visit of H.M. the King.*

2. *The buildings occupied during the first few months of the War, and the temporary Hospital Buildings erected by the Territorial Force Association of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely.*

*In making a selection of photographs regard has been had to the illustration of the Wards, the offices and other buildings in the Hospital, and the Bath Ward—a special feature of the means of treatment of very severe and painful wounds, adopted at the 1st Eastern General Hospital.*

*The story of the origin and progress of the Unit, 1st Eastern General Hospital, is added in the hope that it will be of interest to others as well as to those who have been in the Unit since its inception along with the Territorial Force.*

*It is hoped that the issue will receive the support of the public. Any profits that may accrue will be devoted to the Recreation Fund administered by the Ladies' Entertainment Committee.*

July 1918.



# The Story of the First Eastern General Hospital Unit.

When Lord Haldane launched his scheme for the disbandment of the Volunteers and for the establishment of a Territorial Force to take its place, an opportunity occurred, which was promptly seized by the then Director-General of the Army Medical Services, Sir Alfred Keogh, K.C.B., to reorganise the medical services of the Auxiliary Forces.

Unfortunately the Volunteer Medical Services had not participated in the reconstruction which occurred in the Regular Army Medical Services after the South African War, 1899-1902. Brigade stretcher-bearers existed, it is true, but there was no Hospital organisation of any kind. Consequently there existed little more than the Regimental Medical Officers who were attached to the various Regimental Units.

The excellence of the work then done in connection with the reconstruction of the new Territorial Force Medical Service is now evident in the harmonious working of the large and expanding organisation of the Territorial Force Field Ambulances and Hospitals throughout the country.

The essential feature of the new organisation was the assimilation and modelling of the T.F. Army Medical Service upon that of the Regular Army, with the result that there came into existence a T.F. Royal Army Medical Corps organised to do similar work to that undertaken by the R.A.M.C. of the Regular Army and with identical privileges, except that the T.F. R.A.M.C. enjoys one great advantage over the R.A.M.C. of the Regular Army in that the Officers and men are trained to work together in their own units in peace as they are expected to do in war.

This was the factor which from the inception of the R.A.M.C. T.F. ensured an atmosphere of confidence, not only in the M.O.'s who had already spent much of their professional time and leisure in keeping up the interest of the Volunteer Corps, but also in the minds of the doctors throughout the country. Sir Alfred Keogh campaigned the country inviting members of the Medical Profession to meet him.

Wherever he went and delivered addresses, it was to sympathetic and even enthusiastic audiences, and his message was most cordially received. The doctors, appreciating the importance of the work, were ready to give what help was in their power in the building up of this new scheme.



Cambridge was one of the places visited. A meeting was held in the Hall of Downing College, under the chairmanship of the late Master, Professor Howard Marsh, and soon afterwards the University Town was selected as the location of one of the Units to form the basis of a General Hospital.

Previous to this there had been two separate and successful units of the old Volunteer Force in Cambridge: (1) The Cambridge University Rifle Volunteer Corps (4th Battalion the Suffolk Regiment), and (2) the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. In the former, Major J. Griffiths and Captain H. B. Roderick were the Medical Officers, and in the latter Captain F. E. Apthorpe Webb. These were the only Volunteer Medical Officers in this borough at the time, and of these Major J. Griffiths was selected to take command, with the rank of Colonel, of the new unit of the General Hospital, Captain Apthorpe Webb with the rank of Major being subsequently appointed to the office of Registrar. Captain H. B. Roderick was placed in command of the Medical Section of the C.U.O.T.C., which was instituted as a section of a Field Ambulance for the training of Cadets in the special medical routine and technique of the R.A.M.C.

Early in the summer of 1908 the Commanding Officer took steps to enlist men for the new unit, namely, the 1st Eastern General Hospital. He first invited those who had served under him for several years as stretcher-bearers in the C.U.R.V. Corps to form a nucleus of the new unit. At a meeting held at the Headquarters of the new C.U.O.T.C. in Market Street on May 29th, 1908, 18 men attended, and 11 of them decided to transfer to the 1st Eastern; these were duly sworn in on June 5th. The following are the names of these men:—Sergt. P. Harris, Corpl. F. H. Neal, Corpl. H. S. Manning, Lce.-Corpl. H. Hones, Lce.-Corpl. C. E. W. Coe, Pte. Porter, Pte. Poulter, Pte. J. A. Baker, Pte. A. H. Maile, Pte. F. Webster, Pte. H. E. Jeeves. Of these the following are still serving, and their respective ranks are:—Capt. and Quartermaster R. H. Porter, Lieut. and Quartermaster C. E. W. Coe, Staff-Sergt. H. S. Manning, Sergt. A. H. Maile.

By the courtesy of the C.O. of the C.U.O.T.C., Col. Edwards, C.B., the unit represented by the C.O. and eleven N.C.O.'s and men joined the C.U.O.T.C., and with that Corps, as in former years, spent the first annual training period at Aldershot, under a different name, however, and under a new system. The C.O. made every effort to obtain guidance as to his own duties, what was expected of the unit, and the lines upon which to carry on the training of N.C.O.'s and men to fit them for their future duties. The medical officers consulted, gave us a cordial welcome, and made all feel that henceforth the unit of the 1st Eastern General Hospital was a part of the medical organisation of the British Army, and that the only distinction was the designation "Territorial" (T.), which has, in a few years, gained such importance and dignity as to justify the pride all



who belong to this branch of the service rightly entertain for it. At the inception of the Territorial Force the medical officers of the old Volunteers took the position that rightly belonged to them, and came to enjoy to the full the privileges of a medical officer in their nation's Army. The difference in the status of all who continued as medical officers to the new organisation was extraordinary. We met as medical men should do before this change, but immediately after we met as brother officers in one noble organisation to which we, on our part, desired to make what contributions we could. The condition of affairs to-day shows, better than words can describe, the enormous advantages to the Army that were the outcome of the change from the Volunteer to the Territorial organisation of the Auxiliary Forces of the Army.

After this camp, extending from June 17th to the 30th, it was evident to the C.O. that the military authorities expected the unit to undergo an annual training which would fit the officers, N.C.O.'s and men to organise a General Hospital, and to run it on regular military lines, under similar conditions and with like discipline. The story of each subsequent year will show how this training has been accomplished.

After the relaxation following upon the Camp, serious work was resumed early in the winter. Active recruiting brought us a new set of men, who, together with the original nucleus, made up the regulation number to be trained from year to year.

Early in September a real beginning was made, and it was then that our first ceremonial took place. On September 16, 1908, the A.D.M.S. of the East Anglian Division, Col. Geo. S. Elliston, C.B., who has since retired from active service, made a formal inspection, and was received in the Surgical Department of the University.

The unit was at this time complete, even to its complement of buglers. The establishment of a General Hospital includes two buglers, and in order to keep up the interest of the buglers the O.C. presented the Unit with a silvered bugle, which was to be held by the better player. Bugler Royston, who had served in the C.U.R.V., had joined the unit, and on the first opportunity not only gained the silver bugle but has kept it ever since.

The winter training was taken in hand at once. The O.C. undertook to deliver the elementary lectures on Anatomy and Physiology; Major Apthorpe Webb gave practical instruction in bandaging, application of splints, the control of bleeding, and first-aid in general, and S.-Sergt. F. Casley, of the C.U.O.T.C., helped to drill the unit once weekly. Keeness, "go," and a desire to do the work well, characterised the members of the unit from the very start, and to-day it is the pride of the personnel that every new orderly is enthused with the old spirit.



As the summer approached preparations were made to go into training for 15 days, the full regulation period, and it was decided to apply for leave to go to Colchester. This request was granted, and on 26 June, 1909, the 1st Eastern General Hospital unit left Cambridge at 9 a.m., arriving at the Hospital, Colchester, at 1 p.m., and was the first of the Territorial Forces General Hospitals to be attached to Colchester for annual training. On the arrival of the unit a kindly welcome awaited all, especially the N.C.O.'s and men, who soon found good sound friends in the Sergeant-Major and his staff. The work was soon systematised; each man fell into his own duties, received the best of training by being put to do the work itself, and came away with the conviction that the men of the R.A.M.C. were not only good companionable fellows, but thorough masters of their work. Quarters were offered to the unit, but the O.C. had made up his mind that the training obtained in camp under canvas was in itself of such educational value to the N.C.O.'s and men that he would not entertain the kindly and considerate offer of the authorities on the spot, and the unit camped on the Abbey Fields behind the hospital, where grass had only just replaced corn. Since that date the 1st Eastern General Hospital was under canvas each year, and the lessons learnt, on each occasion, in the running of a small camp, have indeed proved invaluable under the present circumstances of war.

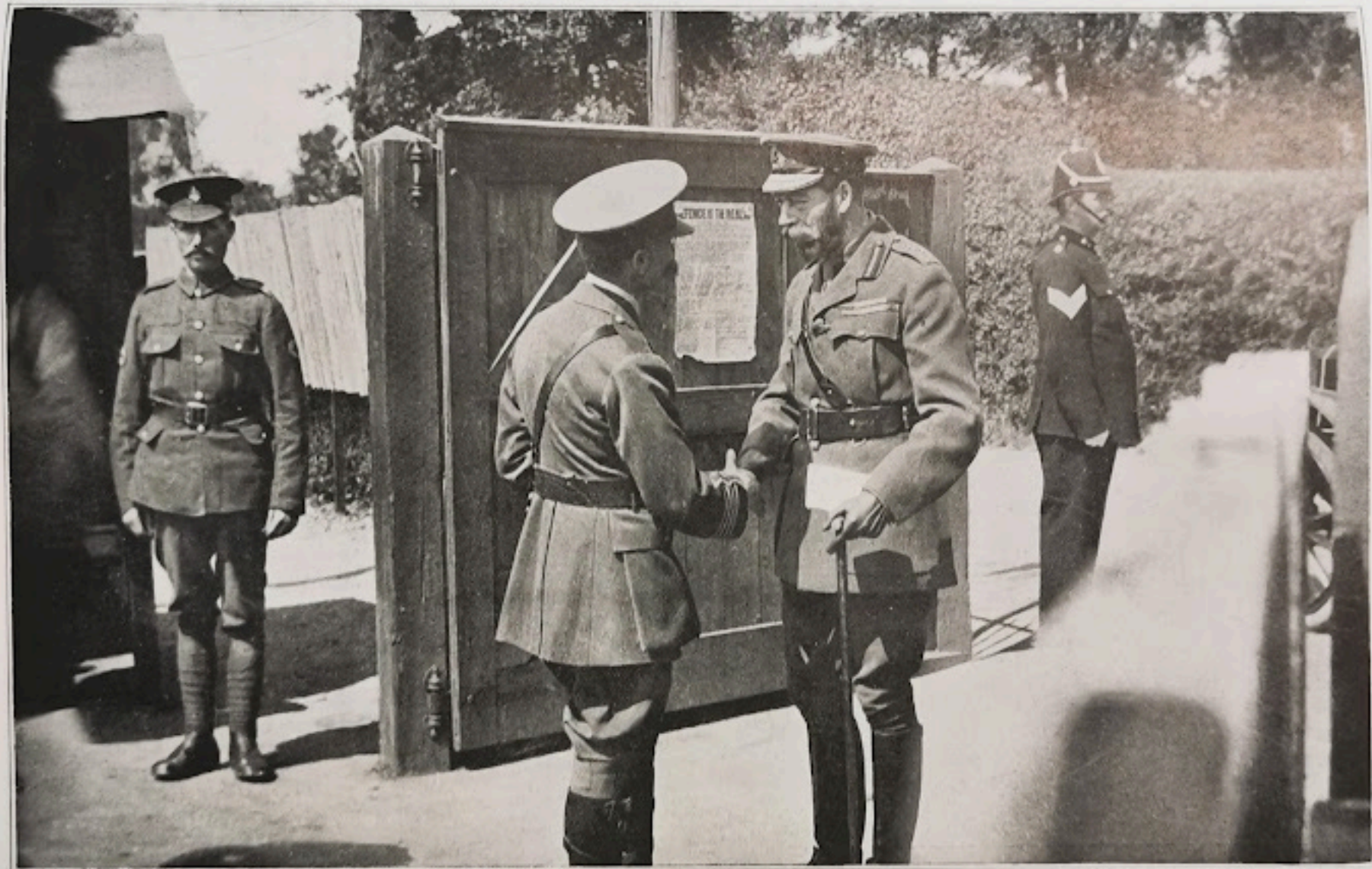
As is usual at Camp, Inspectors came, officers looked in, and perhaps the General in command rode through. Fortunately for us the O.C. of the Colchester Military Hospital, Col. Eaton Jones, prided himself on knowing how to keep a camp, and the lessons he was then good enough to give have not been forgotten, nor, indeed, are they likely to be, so long as tradition lasts.

The unit owes a further debt to this officer, as it is due to his example that there is the good feeling and the help-all-we-can attitude of the entire Hospital staff, an attitude that has been preserved for four years, and will, it is confidently predicted, be present on our return to camp, whenever that may be.

On this occasion Surgeon-General Dorman inspected the Camp in his official capacity of D.D.M.S. E.C. Col. Sir Andrew Clark paid a flying visit, and the A.D.M.S. proved us in our daily work. The general success of the Camp was undoubtedly due, in a great measure, to the incessant labour of Sergt.-Major James Connell, who lived with us, guided our N.C.O.'s and men into the right ways and, by his briskness, good humour and strict discipline in all military matters, helped to make the camp a complete success. Just as the O.C. was keen that all should have an opportunity to learn their work, so was he anxious that the men should be as smart and alert as those of a Regular unit.

The weather was not favourable, but our spirits rose as the barometer fell, and with that improvement in general health which camp, if properly used,





THE ARRIVAL OF H.M. THE KING AT THE 1st EASTERN GENERAL HOSPITAL.  
Col. J. Griffiths receives H.M. the King.





Photo

THE CLOISTERS UNDER THE LIBRARY, TRINITY COLLEGE, J. Palmer Clarke,  
occupied as a ward.





Photo

NEW COURT, TRINITY COLLEGE, AUGUST, 1914.  
First wounded received in motor ambulances from Railway Station.

J. Palmer Clarke.



invariably brings, the inconveniences of the wet were forgotten. Thirty-five N.C.O.'s and men spent the full time of 15 days in camp, only seven being content with eight days. All enjoyed the time, and returned to Cambridge the fitter for the change, the wiser for the experience, and the better for having submitted themselves to real military discipline even for the short period of two weeks.

Nominally, the work of the year ends with Camp, but, actually, the end is 31st October. After this the custom of the 1st Eastern General Hospital has been to rest until after Christmas. In the interval the list of prize winners is made up, and in the autumn of 1909 it was decided to make a special function of the prize distribution, and on 15th December, 1909, at the first of a series of such functions, we were fortunate in being able to secure the services of Col. James, and in having with us several who had been keen Volunteers themselves, and who came to wish the new unit success in all its undertakings.

With the advent of the new year, active preparations were renewed in order to make ready for the next Camp. This, for the second time, was fixed to be held at Colchester, and as all were confident of a hearty welcome the annual outing was looked forward to with pleasure.

When the time for pitching camp came the Abbey fields were fixed upon, and the work at the military hospital, close by, was resumed with the utmost zeal. The weather was excellent, and earwigs were not lacking in abundance; they lined the tents, got into every dark corner, and always managed to occupy garments not actually worn. They invaded and raided jam, butter, cheese, bread, et multis aliis, but the fresh air, the early exercise under the vigorous instruction of Sergt.-Major Connel, and the hospital discipline, rendered everyone proof not only against such trifles as earwigs but against all troubles.

The third Camp, held in the following year, was also pitched at Colchester. This, our last visit to the ancient camp city of the Colne, proved as successful as either of its predecessors, and the unit came away feeling that the help given at Colchester had inspired it with confidence to "fly at" the biggest military hospital in the kingdom, Netley. Consequently the fourth camping expedition took us to Netley Hospital, where the organisation is on the most extensive scale, and where experience and teaching could be obtained in every department of work appertaining to a complete military hospital. Here, as at Colchester, the unit was welcomed most warmly, and friendships were formed and cemented that have proved of inestimable value to many of us during the period of active service on which we are now engaged. The officers obtained an insight into the working of a big organisation, the N.C.O.'s saw how the work was, and ought to be, done and the men found that the duties entrusted to them were worthy of their closest and best attention.



Here, at that time, existed the only ambulance train in the kingdom, that built for Queen Victoria during the South African War. It was admirably fitted and equipped, and the arrangements throughout were excellent. Permission to use it was obtained, and very interesting the inspection proved to be. Instead of a locomotive the men put their shoulders to the wheel, and again, at the end of an hour's instruction, joined with the best of spirits in returning the very heavy train to its permanent quarters. Before we left an exercise was devised by the Registrar, then Major MacMunn, to test us in the handling of a convoy of sick and wounded; in the admission and in the various transferences from one department to another, and in dealing with invalidings, with permanent discharges and death. A morning was usefully spent in this way, and the entire routine was accomplished, as was found out before the next prize-giving day, to the entire satisfaction of the critic.

The work the men were then put through stimulated them to a desire to conquer fresh regions though in the same world, and the following year Netley was revisited, when the same camping ground was occupied and a similar routine was gone through, to the great benefit of officers, N.C.O.'s and men. After two years' training at Netley the unit as a whole felt that as it now had sufficient confidence in its capability to undertake the work of a General Hospital it could afford to entertain the idea of going to a smaller hospital, and application was made to be allowed to proceed to Shorncliffe for the annual training in 1914. We arrived there in the middle of July, and remained for a fortnight, occupying a small inconvenient piece of ground between the hospital and the beach allotted to us. We did the best we could to defy the elements, especially the south-west gales, with a boldness worthy of the traditions of the unit. We soon discovered that the site had once been of considerable importance, as here at Battery Point Sir John Moore was in command of a Battery. Here, also, the French prisoners of war were confined during the Napoleonic Wars. From this vantage ground we could survey the martello towers, most of which are in ruins, that were erected in the endeavour to meet the would-be invader Napoleon, and the opposite coast of pas de Calais, and further south, of Normandy. The view from this spot brought home to those who remembered something of history the tremendous struggle that racked our country just over a century ago. The vast military preparations, and even the canal for conveyance of food and munitions of war from Hythe to Battery Point, though they now stand idle, serve as silent witnesses of the efforts made to meet and defeat the threatened landing of the French. The thoughts during the stay in this Camp were turned to meditation on the story of the past, but before the fortnight of camp life had passed there were signs that in all probability history was about to repeat itself. This time, however, it would not be Frenchmen who would try to take our land, but Germans, who were





Photo

THE EAST PORTION OF THE SOUTH CLOISTER  
converted into a Surgical Operating Theatre.

J. Palmer Clarke.





Photo

NEVILLE'S COURT (CLOISTERS), TRINITY COLLEGE,  
where 250 wounded soldiers were accommodated.

J. Palmer Clarke.





THE ADMINISTRATIVE, MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND NURSING STAFF.



preparing to crush all who attempted to bar the way to the opposite Normandy coast, and in an attempt to push their way across the English Channel and subdue for ever that power which has fostered so much that is noble and good in the world for centuries past. Little did we think that Shorncliffe was to be our last camp before we were asked to put into practice what we had fondly hoped we had been trained to do. We had been home for only a few days when the order for mobilisation came. We had not yet dispersed, and were ready to respond to the call of our King, to come together, to put our house in order, and to carry out the work allotted to us. Mobilisation notices were issued, and all the members of the unit assembled in Green Street, No. 39, our Headquarters, at 5.30 a.m. on the 5th August, 1914, and by 6.30 quarters were found in the New Museums, which were most generously placed at our disposal by the University authorities.

The morning of the 5th of August was fresh, and the sun shone brilliantly.

The men were billeted in a portion of the old Physiological Laboratory, which was then being renovated in preparation for the coming Term, and for the use of Dr. Hopkins, the new Professor of Physiological Chemistry, who considerately caused all work to be suspended at once in order that the rooms might forthwith be cleansed and made habitable by the members of the Unit, who, from experience in Camp, knew how to organise the work, to execute it with dispatch, and to make the rooms comfortable and pleasant.

The Officers of the Unit were, by kind permission of Professor Hopkinson, located in the Drawing Office of the Engineering Laboratory, where our uncertain future was often discussed, and where the plans for the new Hospital were gradually evolved as we looked back on our several years' experience.

Here the Officers remained until we transferred our Headquarters to the New Court of Trinity College, where we occupied rooms on the ground floor on each side of the S.W. corner.

It was not necessary to provide beds for the sick until, in accordance with our mobilisation scheme, the Leys School came to be occupied. Then a batch of beds was prepared for the accommodation of the sick of the 6th Division and other troops which were accumulated in or near Cambridge early in August. After this the nurses were mobilised, and with the permission of the Master and Fellows, very willingly granted, housed in Downing College. There they spent many days, apparently enjoying a rest, but in reality busily cutting out and making up the material for the use of the Hospital, whilst waiting for the coming of patients.

The Leys School was soon transformed into an excellent temporary hospital, and by the 17th August the D.D.M.S. Eastern Command, Surgeon General Whitehead, on arriving in Cambridge and visiting the School, found



everything in working order and ready for the reception of the sick from local troops, with orderlies, nurses, and doctors flitting about night and day, each bent on the fulfilment of his or her own duties, under the new and strange conditions. The first operation done in the Operating Theatre, a room on the east end, first floor, of the North Block, was performed on 20th August, 1914, by Lieut.-Col. Deighton. This was quickly followed by others.

In all, 171 patients were admitted to the Hospital whilst at the Leys.

The sojourn of the Unit in its first quarters was not prolonged, as the Leys School authorities were, naturally, anxious that nothing should interfere with the preparation of the dormitories and schoolrooms for the return of the boys after the summer holidays. Confronted with this difficulty Colonel Griffiths approached the late Master and the Fellows of Trinity College, who at once and most willingly came to the rescue, granting the use of Nevile's Court as an open air Hospital. Messrs. Negus and Son, under the direction of Col. Griffiths and Mr. C. F. Skipper, set to work with such a will that between August 12th and 30th an open-air Hospital for 250 beds was ready for the reception of a convoy of 170 wounded Officers and men who arrived from Southampton the following day.

The first arrivals from the ambulance train were photographed at the south entrance to Nevile's Court, and fortunately the picture is available for reproduction.

The Cloister Court, Nevile's, in Trinity College, is remarkably well suited to the formation of a temporary Hospital. It is so constructed that whilst affording ample shelter, it allows free access of air, plenty of light, and at the same time is not a draughty building. The weather remaining fine with abundance of sunshine during the entire period we were in occupation, the open-air hospital treatment was begun under exceedingly favourable conditions.

The hospital was large enough to accommodate from 250 to 300 patients ; moreover, it was provided with every convenience. Owing to the unevenness of the stone floor, it was thought advisable to cover it with boards, so as to allow of the beds, etc., standing level. The North side of the Cloister is famous for its echo, which, as soon as the wooden floor was laid, disappeared, to reappear, however, when the floor was taken up on the removal of the patients to the new Hospital on the King's and Clare Cricket Ground. To complete the equipment, temporary bathrooms were constructed in the North-west angle, and a commodious operating room in the Eastern half of the South Cloister. In the Judge's Kitchen, in the Master's Lodge, all the cooking for the patients and orderlies was done. Various rooms in the adjoining New Court were converted into offices, and tents



in which the orderlies could sleep and take their meals were erected on the lawn west of the Library.

As the demand for beds increased, Hospital marquees were procured and erected on the paddocks beyond the river ; 250 more beds were thus quickly available, and were all occupied during the month of September, and until the Hospital was moved to its new quarters.

The conversion of Nevile's Court into an open-air Hospital aroused the keenest interest in and around Cambridge, and many were the visitors from distant parts. Some came to obtain information, others out of curiosity to see how patients could stand the climate night and day, wet or fine. The Medical Officers found the conditions somewhat novel, but soon they realised the advantages accruing to the patients from living in the open, while their wounds and disease were being treated. The Nurses, who are perhaps even more conservative in their views and opinions than the Medical Officers, were very qualified in their approbation, and at first were not prepared to meet the minor difficulties that arose ; but their natural instinct to do their best for the sick and wounded, and their good sense soon made them advocates of the system, turn their attention to improving the facilities at their disposal, and render themselves more efficient in doing the magnificent work it is their privilege to undertake in this great war. This work they did with a will, and there is no praise the Officer Commanding is not willing, and even eager, to bestow upon those who maintained so high a sense of duty during the early days of trial. Difficulties there were and minor sufferings, but grumblers were, practically speaking, non-existent.

While we were in occupation of Nevile's Court and the Paddocks of Trinity, a number of Officers and men from the Central Army and from overseas were admitted for treatment. As the patients recovered, much freedom was given them, and drives into the neighbouring country were encouraged and much enjoyed by both patients and hosts. The late Master of Trinity was one of the most regular in escorting parties for an hour's drive, and great was the pleasure given to those who enjoyed this privilege.

The month was a busy one. A large number of beds were now required for convalescing patients, and it became necessary to organise a complete system of Auxiliary or Red Cross Hospitals—no easy matter, in spite of the fact that both Territorial Force Association and the Cambridge Red Cross Society entered heartily into the work, and in co-operation with the O.C., Colonel Griffiths, a satisfactory scheme was soon developed, a scheme that has worked wonderfully well considering the difficulties associated with its improvisation. It afforded an indication of the willingness of all classes, both in Town and University, to co-operate with the military authorities.



A good beginning had been made, but it soon became apparent that the Trinity College Hospital would afford accommodation for a mere fraction of the patients likely to be sent to Cambridge, and it became necessary to make arrangements for the provision of a 500 bed open-air Hospital. After a survey of numerous possible sites King's and Clare cricket ground was selected, and the governing bodies of those colleges being approached, permission to use it was at once given to the Military authorities, and the work of construction was commenced forthwith.

So satisfactory were Mr. (now Major) Skipper's plans for the new Hospital, prepared under Col. Griffiths' direction, and so well organised the building arrangements that within a month of the cutting of the first sod, the builders, Messrs. Negus and Son, handed over the Hospital ready for the reception of the patients to be transferred from the Trinity College Hospital, who were removed to the new Hospital on October 10th, everything being carried out with the least possible friction.

On the 15th October a convoy of wounded from our Belgian Allies' army arrived, a convoy that received, if possible, greater attention than was accorded to the wounded of our own army, perhaps because most of the men appeared to be in even greater straits than were our men, whose better training, nourishment and physique enabled them to withstand wounds and privations better than could their Belgian colleagues.

As time went on need for some recreation, amusement and occupation for the wounded men became apparent, and arrangements had to be made for the formation of an Entertainments Committee, a committee that from that day to this during the autumn, winter and spring evenings has kept going series of Concerts, Theatricals, Whist Drives, Cinema Entertainments, etc., and Mr. Macaulay, of King's College, has, during the summer months, organised out-of-door games with the most satisfactory results.

With these facts before us it may be of interest, ere giving a short account of passing events to give a short account of

## **The Origin of the First Eastern General Hospital.**

Four years ago our minds and hearts were full of anticipation, and coming events bulked largely in our thoughts; to-day is a day of reminiscences and for the review of the many happenings still so difficult of interpretation and even of classification into those of grave import and such as are of slighter significance. Amongst all these happenings it may be of interest to some to know what were the influences shaping the thoughts of a number





Photo

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, N.C.O.'s AND MEN OF THE 1st EASTERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, after mobilization. J. Palmer Clarke





Photo **GENERAL VIEW OF THE 1st EASTERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, J. Palmer Clarke.**  
with garden separating the Administrative from the Ward Blocks.



Photo **ADDITIONAL TENTS, added to increase accommodation in 1916.** J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo **FRONT OF WARD 23, showing it as it was originally open to the South.** J. Palmer Clarke.



of those to whom had been allotted the honourable task of caring for the sick and wounded soldier.

The Unit of the 1st Eastern General Hospital, called together on a war footing at the outbreak of hostilities, had a no less important work in hand than the preparation of everyone of its members for any and every contingency, for no one could predict what would happen, however much he might speculate as to the course events might take. The only rational plan appeared to be to prepare for all emergencies ; that note was sounded at once, and to it no fuller or more willing response than that given by every man of the Unit has ever been called forth. What was the value and character of the work done in answer to this call must be left to the judgment of future generations, and to those who may, with the lapse of time, gain a truer perspective of the events of this war and all that they involve, but the willingness and eagerness of each member of the Unit, from the Territorial who had trained himself in preparation for war work, to the eager batman who joined immediately after the outbreak of war, were a source of great pleasure to those who could view with knowledge the course of events. Each man shouldered his responsibilities and took up his duties as if he realised to the full that his work was now in earnest—in dead earnest.

At the outset instructions were awaited ; these came not, as none could then be formulated. Was the Unit to serve at home or would its place be to render service overseas ? Pre-arranged schemes to meet a bloody war after a landing of the German invaders in East Anglia were keenly discussed ; but on all hands it was felt that something different from what had hitherto been contemplated was about to happen, new thoughts and novel ideas arose, many of them merely to be scanned and forthwith thrown aside. During the period of waiting interest and excitement were aroused by an apparently stray enquiry as to how many of the Unit would volunteer for foreign service. The response was immediate and unanimous ; all were eager to go. However, our rôle was to remain in Cambridge and carry on the less exciting, but perhaps equally useful, work of making preparations to meet the demands for the treatment of the large Army—trained and in training—that soon filled East Anglia, and to receive sick and wounded soldiers from France and Flanders, where the Expeditionary Force were so early in action.

The necessities of an Army are not always to be anticipated, indeed they often arise without notice of any kind, and although the scheme devised in peace to meet the emergency of invasion of East Anglia was put into operation as fully as circumstances would allow, it became more and more apparent that temporary measures, however well devised and carried out, would be of little use under the conditions obtaining as the war developed. It was evident that work of no ordinarily arduous kind would have to be tackled by the members



of the R.A.M.C. (T.), and that it would be well to lay plans for dealing with the requirements of a war that might extend over several years at least. Now many, if not all, thought that such a forecast was correct, and that if we were to maintain for long our position as free men, men free in body, mind and spirit, men of honour and men of righteousness, the war would be long and our task arduous. With some inkling, then, of the magnitude of the European war that was already upon us, with all its terrors and appliances for maiming and slaughter, certain considerations obtruded themselves at once, and we were led to make as ample preparations as possible to meet the demands that would certainly be made upon us for the treatment of the thousands of sick and wounded that were likely to come in an almost continuous stream from the front.

As the war was conceived on an unprecedented scale, so was it necessary to devise ways and means of a like magnitude for the reception of wounded in numbers hitherto undreamt of in this country. Never before had we been obliged to think of building in this island home of ours Hospitals large enough to accommodate 1,000 patients; aye, 1,500 to 2,000. Our first thoughts were how to use as temporary hospitals such large buildings as we already possessed, and to determine whether they were suitable for the purpose, not only from a hygienic point of view but from that of convenience and economy in administration. Most of the buildings available, though large and lofty, were found to be airless and difficult of ventilation, and in that respect, if not in others, unsuitable for the lodgement of sick and wounded soldiers.

It was soon realised that for this reason, if for no other, they would prove, as some of them have already proved, costly in life; some of them veritable death traps.

On inspection of the old schools, elementary and secondary, it was evident that they, at any rate, were unfitted for the accommodation of the sick and wounded. On the other hand many of the new schools are conveniently and sensibly planned, so well constructed and so thoroughly ventilated that they could easily be converted into good hospitals, though not of the first class. Here again there cropped up a great difficulty; that of cost of administration, which can never be economical in small Units. Further, however good a Hospital a school might prove to be there is one very important drawback to its utilization in a war of such magnitude and that promised to last so long as this present war. Occupation of the schools must interfere with the education of the coming generation of men and women, and as it is upon education that our civilisation depends, it was evident that if we allowed any interference with it, even for a year and certainly if beyond that period, it might be laid to our charge that we were not doing all we ought for those who will have to take up the burden of Empire when we are compelled to lay it down.





INTERESTING QUESTIONS asked about effect of the open-air system of treatment on the patients.



H.M. THE KING WALKING ROUND FRONT OF 23rd WARD.



A VIEW OF ONE OPEN-AIR WARD.

J. Palmer Clarke.



Patients waiting the arrival of H.M. the King.



A Ward Party.



H.M. the King, Colonel Griffiths, and Principal Matron.



H.M. the King taking leave.



Nurses waiting the arrival of H.M. the King



Enquiries as to the use and advantages of the Bath Ward.



It may be said that the present-day child is being over-educated ; that is a matter of opinion, and certainly is not a profitable subject for discussion under existing conditions. In any case the daily attendance at school is of great advantage to the child in many ways, even though cramming with ill-understood knowledge may sometimes take the place of well-regulated training of body and mind. Judicious education is difficult to obtain anywhere and in any grade of society, but nothing so far as is known at present can replace even the worst education. Defective education may, of course, be remedied in later years, but only at a most exorbitant price in time and energy.

If, therefore, there was one thing of all others that in the present crisis we could not afford to neglect, even with the limitation suggested above, it was the education of our children. To occupy Elementary Schools as Hospitals for many months is surely a very serious matter, especially if we are to maintain and increase the supply of educated men and women to carry on efficiently our national work. For these reasons if for no other, the utilisation of our good schools as Army Hospitals, however great the temptation, seemed to be wrong in principle, and the provision of new adequate and convenient temporary hospital buildings appeared to offer to us the truest type of economy both of money and of trained brains. Wealth is of no avail unless there be knowledge to direct and organise its use and distribution.

In making our plans then, not only was the occupation of the Elementary and Secondary Schools avoided, but other buildings apparently suitable, many of them in the University, were looked upon as likely to be of far greater service if still applied to their proper use—education—than if adapted to the housing of the sick and wounded soldier.

These then were the thoughts, shared by practically all concerned, which gave reason and force to those in authority in these matters in Cambridge to ask, as a special favour, to be allowed to construct a cheap open-air hospital on a large scale. This suggestion was favourably considered by the War Office authorities, and Cambridge was allowed to show that open-air wards are ideal, not only for the treatment of patients, but for the maintenance of the health of all who work in them—orderlies, doctors and nurses alike.

### **Erection of the Present Hospital.**

After two weeks of hard and continuous work the Hospital was sufficiently forward to take in patients. Accordingly a transfer of patients took place on the 17th and 18th of October, 1914. Rapidly other wards were made ready, and in one month from the time Contractors entered upon their work accommodation for 500 beds was available.



Immediately after a call for additional beds up to 1,000 came, block after block was rapidly erected, and by the 16th November, 1914, all the additional wards were ready for occupation.

In May, 1915, another demand for beds was made by the War Office, and the remaining space on the ground was occupied by four wards sufficient to house another 200 patients.

Originally all the wards were open on one side—to the south—blinds being provided to protect the patients from wind and rain. After two years it was determined by the War Office to close twenty out of the twenty-four wards, the remaining four being left as originally constructed. None in the open wards would exchange with those in the closed ones, and the experience gained amply justified the experiment, which failed, if it failed at all, in not providing a comfortable place in which friends might sit by the patients in cold weather. Hospitals are primarily for the sick, and it is to be hoped they will, in the course of time, be constructed with the sole object of making the patients well in the least possible period of time.

## **Special Features of the Hospital.**

### **THE BATH WARD.**

Owing to the well-known efficacy of the treatment of wounds in a bath through which a current of water passes continuously, and of the difficulty experienced in treating very severe and painful wounds of the lower limbs, a scheme was evolved by the then Registrar, now Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Apthorpe Webb and the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company, whereby baths of ordinary dimensions were arranged so as to be used for such a purpose.

In them patients are made quite comfortable, and there they remain, as long as is necessary, even if it be for several weeks.

The nursing of these patients gave rise to many small difficulties in the initial stages, but these were soon satisfactorily overcome by the nurses in charge.

The regulation of the temperature of the water flowing through was most satisfactorily accomplished by the staff of the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company, to whom our sincere thanks are due.

Men whose wounds are very painful,—who can neither rest nor sleep,—when transferred from a bed to the bath ward, are soothed to such an extent that the relief is indescribable. Sleep supervenes, the appetite returns; indeed the change in the condition of the patient is almost incredible. Not only is the general condition of the patient affected thus beneficially but the wound forthwith begins to clean and healing sets in without delay.





Photo

**CARPENTER'S SHOP**, for the amusement and occupation of patients, run by W. H. Macaulay, who stands with his foreman, Mr. Suckling, holding wood.

J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo

**THE SKITTLE ALLEY.**

J. Palmer Clarke





Photo

UP-PATIENTS GROUP TO SEE THE KING.

J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo

THE POST OFFICE AND NEWS SHOP.

J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo

A SUMMER GROUP OF PATIENTS IN THE INTER-WARD LAWNS.

J. Palmer Clarke.



## NERVE AND MUSCLE TESTING.

Another interesting department in the Hospital is the electrical diagnosis and treatment room, where, under the superintendance first of Lieut. Roberts and then of Dr. Shore, excellent work in the measurement of nerve and muscle reaction by alteration in electrical potential is carried on by means of a modified electrocardiograph, with which accurate photographic records of these reactions are obtained.

These are only a couple out of a number of new methods of treatment carried out in this hospital. There an important series of observations on the etiology and treatment of cerebro-spinal fever, the results of which, published in separate form, have attracted considerable attention.

## THE CARPENTER'S SHOP.

Here, under Mr. Macaulay, many a patient has found mental occupation and physical salvation. Those high in authority who cannot see what goes on in these shops can have no idea of the healing effected and the patching up carried on in this humble department. The men and the doctors at any rate appreciate its importance.

## THE FIRST OFFSHOOTS.

From the 1st Eastern General T.F. Hospital sprang the Barnwell Military Hospital and from the parent was drawn the organisation and staff. The Cherryhinton Military Hospital, also, in the first instance, staffed and organised from the 1st Eastern, was converted from a hutted training camp for a Battalion and a half of the 11th Suffolks. These two hospitals have since March 1917, been run as a separate unit under Col. Elliott, A.M.S., and, if we may be allowed to say so, are a credit to their parent.

## THE VOLUNTARY AID ORGANISATION OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS HOSPITALS.

Only those who have followed the rise and development of these Hospitals can appreciate how much the country owes to the Rev. Charles Townley, County Director, Mr. Lawson, Dr. Alexander Wood and the splendid band of workers under this leader and his lieutenants. In addition V.A.D. Auxiliary Hospitals were organised in the Counties of Bedford, Huntingdon, Northampton, and Hertford. In this organisation the County Directors played a very important part, especially the Hon. A. Holland Hibbert, who has been indefatigable in making Hertfordshire a great success.



## CAMBS. AND ISLE OF ELY TERRITORIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION.

During the evolution and establishment of the 1st Eastern General Hospital sympathy and helpfulness characterised throughout the plans and actions of the Chairman, Mr. C. R. W. Adeane, C.B., Lord Lieutenant of the County and Chairman of the Association, of the members and of the Architect, Major Skipper. Beyond this we had here a body of men, shrewd, keen and businesslike, animated by a deep sense of duty and loyalty to their King, their Country and their work. Although things were pushed on, sometimes with extreme rapidity, there was never any interference with smooth running or effectiveness such as might have occurred with a less tactful and loyal body. All who have had to work or be treated in the Cambridge Hospitals, whether central or auxiliary, have ample reason to thank them for their willing and successful work.

### THE HOSPITAL GAZETTE.

No account of the 1st Eastern Hospital that omits mention of the Hospital Gazette would be complete. Edited under the eye of the O.C. by Captain Malden, it was for a couple of years a link between staff and patients, present and past, of no ordinary kind. On the one hand it gave an account, often sketchy no doubt, of much of the hard work that was being done in the Hospital, whilst on the other it reflected the cheery optimism and invincible pluck and good humour of the patients. Perhaps its greatest merit was that it was successful in mirroring the good feeling and *camaraderie* existing between medical and Nursing Staff and patients, and many of us who followed its course from birth to extinction cannot but regret that, as the calls upon the time and energy of the Staff increased, and not from any lack of support on the part of either public or patients, of literary and artistic contributions or monetary subscriptions, the Gazette had ultimately to go the way of all such publications. In its time it played a most valuable part in making things go "with a swing."

### Events—Day by Day, 1914-15.

A short account of some of the happenings in the Hospital may not be without interest to those who skim these pages however casually and cursorily. Some of these happenings may appear to be of comparatively slight importance but we know how greatly they have all helped to make the life of the inmates less sombre and more and more real, and to bring them into closer contact with the Great World outside our walls. A world at once so lavish with its promises at the present time and so fruitful in its performances.





Photo

INTERIOR OF KITCHEN, after it was taken over by women cooks.

J. Palmer Clarke.



QUARTER-MASTER, COOKS AND KITCHEN STAFF.

J. Palmer Clarke.





Photo

LINEN STORES.

J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo

SORTING LINEN ON A FINE DAY.

J. Palmer Clarke.





Photo

SISTERS AT THEIR CANTEEN.

J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo

NURSES AND V.A.D.'s AT CANTEEN.

J. Palmer Clarke







On December 17 Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig Holstein, both greatly concerned with the treatment of the wounded soldier, paid a visit to our hospital and the interest displayed by these ladies was keenly appreciated by both patients and staff.

At the end of the year 1914 the end of the War did not seem so far removed as it did the following year, and many then thought that the Christmas Entertainments, dinners to the patients, to nurses and the R.A.M.C. Staff were likely to be almost unique incidents in the History of the Hospital, a view very quickly modified. Between Christmas Eve and the New Year convoy after convoy of wounded men arrived. Indeed directly the first 500 beds were finished the second 500 were commenced, and an additional Operating Theatre had to be erected. Later on 200 more beds were added.

The work of the Hospital now settled down, not into a groove certainly, but into a steadily expanding and improved routine, and during the year a number of distinguished visitors to whom had reached the fame of the open air Hospital found their way to Cambridge, and were there entertained and conducted over the Hospital by the Master of Christ's College.

On February 12th, a red letter day in the Hospital Calendar, patients and staff were delighted to receive a surprise visit from H.M. the King, who, with his suite, evinced the liveliest interest in the Hospital and its work.

The next excitement was a visit paid on 5th March by Lady Aileen Roberts and Lady Grey, to be followed in April by the advent of a party from the American Embassy, Mrs. Page with her daughter and a number of friends; Sir George and Lady Askwith, also paid a visit during this month. Most of these and our other distinguished visitors came under the interested and genial guidance of the Master of Christ's College, Dr. Shipley, our present Vice-Chancellor, whose interest in the Hospital has been a great encouragement to us all.

On April 22, the Matron in Chief of the Territorial Nursing Service, Miss Sidney Browne, accompanied by the Countess of Minto, came on a visit of inspection and "reviewed" the Nursing Staff. This visit had been looked forward to with mixed feelings but was survived by nothing but pleasant recollections. On the 28th H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenburg with Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig Holstein and Lady Selbourne, paid an interested visit. They were followed a little later by the Duke of Newcastle and the Earl of Kintore.

Those from afar were not the only visitors who came to break the routine of Hospital life: on July 8th the Cambs. and Hunts. Branch of the British Medical Association was invited by the Officer Commanding to hold its annual



meeting in the Hospital and to take the opportunity of inspecting it thoroughly. The occasion was made specially interesting by the fact that Col. Griffiths gave a most interesting and instructive demonstration on the fractures of bones, many of the specimens demonstrated being derived from cases treated in the Hospital.

On July 23rd the Officers of the Medical Staff entertained their Nursing Colleagues at a Garden Party in the King's Fellows Garden, this being only one of the many signs of the good feeling and of the pleasant relations that exist between two hard-working branches of the Staff.

On October 6th the Cambs. and Isle of Ely Territorial Force Association met to inspect the Hospital and seemed to be satisfied with the results of their arduous and well directed labours.

Up to this date, that is, just a year from the completion of the Hospital, the Staff, fully occupied as it had been from the commencement, had remained intact, but on October 12, 1915, 20 of the R.A.M.C. Orderlies of the 1st Eastern General Hospital T.F. were drafted for foreign service, and it may safely be stated that 20 more competent and zealous orderlies never proceeded from a Hospital unit. This was but an extension of the first "break" for on October 8th Miss Newton, the Acting Matron and a Staff of Sisters and Nurses had proceeded to form a Hospital in Egypt, though rumour will have it that this detachment of nurses was some time in getting to its destination. However long it took these nurses to arrive at their destination there can be little doubt that, once on the scene, they lost no time in getting to work and doing it efficiently. Miss Macdonald succeeded Miss Newton as Matron.

During the Spring Surgeon General Jencken had succeeded General Whitehead as D.D.M.S., Eastern Command, and on October 17th, while on a visit, the General, with Mrs. Jencken, took the opportunity of meeting at the 1st Eastern all the members of the Medical and Surgical Staff, a means of cementing fellowship and good feeling with the Staff working under him in this Command that was greatly appreciated.

During this time the work of the Entertainments Committee had been growing apace. The first Recreation Room had already been ear marked for administrative purposes, and to meet the increased and increasing demand a new and much larger Recreation room was opened on 11th December. This was an immense addition to the amenities of the Hospital. The furnishing of this room, with its supply of games, etc., was kindly undertaken by Mrs. Douglas Newton and her friends, to whom she had appealed for money for this purpose.





Photo

PATIENTS HAVING THEIR DINNERS SERVED.

J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo

INTERIOR OF AN OPEN-AIR WARD.

J. Palmer Clarke



Photo

VISITORS' DAY IN AN OPEN-AIR WARD.

J. Palmer Clarke.





Photo

EXHIBITION OF BOXING IN HOSPITAL GROUNDS

J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo

RECREATION ROOM FULL OF PATIENTS at an Entertainment. J. Palmer Clarke.



Christmas, with its usual festivities, came and went, and the opening of the New Year of 1916 was comparatively uneventful, but March 1st was marked by a visit from Sir Leslie Rundle, G.O.C. Eastern Command who, during a careful and prolonged inspection, evinced the keenest interest in everything concerning the administration of the Hospital and the welfare and treatment of the sick and wounded.

## 1916.

On March 28th during a terrible storm, an enormous tree crashed on to the kitchen, breaking in the roof and endangering the main sources of supply ; owing, however, to the energy of the Quartermaster and his Staff, all danger of such further catastrophe was soon removed and the patients again breathed (and ate) freely. A fortnight later, on April 10th, Surgeon General Sir William Babbie, V.C., just appointed Assistant D.D.G., A.M.S., honoured the hospital with a visit and saw something of its working.

From work to play is not always an easy transition in the daily Hospital round, but on Easter Monday, April 24th, the Unit held very enjoyable Sports on the Trinity Ground, when General and Mrs. Jencken, who were present, distributed the prizes to the successful competitors after a series of events, which, if not all up to a championship form, were contested with a keenness and good temper with which even a championship meeting could scarcely provide a parallel. On June 1st Col. Griffiths received and entertained to tea in the large recreation room the Delegates from the French Universities, whose profound interest in our new type of Hospital was vividly and forcibly expressed. On the evening of the same day a farewell dinner was given to the staff of the 41st General Hospital proceeding to Aldershot for Stores, Equipment, etc., before leaving with 40 1st Eastern Orderlies for Salonika to staff a Hospital for sick and wounded Serbians.

On July 20 a really remarkable exhibition, organised by the Matron and Sister Carley, was held in the Large Recreation Room. Here were on view Needlework, Painting, Etching, Drawing, Carving and various other types of handicraft work which had been produced by Sisters, Nurses, Orderlies and Patients in their spare time during the winter and spring months. This interesting Exhibition was opened by Lady Ampthill ; afterwards the Prizes were distributed by the Matron in Chief Miss Sidney Browne, who since its opening has taken a lively interest in everything concerning our Hospital. On August 2nd we had the honour of a visit from Lord Robert Cecil and General Carlton Jones who, like most of their predecessors, made a most thorough examination of the various features, old and new, of the Hospital.



On August 3rd the King manifested his continued interest in our welfare in a prolonged visit to the Wards. No detail, apparently, was beneath his notice, and many a patient felt, and in this he was not far wrong, that the King took a lively interest in his special and individual case. This war appears to have brought out, as nothing else could have done, the intimate personal relations that exist between the Heads of the Royal House and their many suffering and loyal subjects.

On August 30th a number of University Extension Students were received as guests at the Hospital. After that, for three months we pursued the even tenour of our way until early in October, when Mrs. Crichton initiated the teaching of needlework to the soldier patients. So successful was this movement that several exhibitions and sales of work have since been held in some of the college Lodges, a movement that has greatly encouraged the men to go on with this form of work. On November 13 General Robb paid a visit of inspection and, to all appearances, he was well satisfied with what he saw.

During December of this year a large well-fitted Billiard Room was opened, for the building of which we were indebted to generous donations by the British Red Cross Society, the Cambs. Red Cross Society, and Professor Browne; the Honble. Holland Hibbert and the Canadian Red Cross Society presenting the tables.

Christmas as usual was made the occasion of jovial but restrained festivity. A splendid spread was again provided by friends in and around Cambridge, and whatever may have been the state of mind of people outside the Hospital, those within the precincts were anything but depressed, for a merrier crew it would have been difficult to find throughout his Majesty's dominions.

## 1917.

Early in the New Year, 1917, Sir William Babbie, V.C., accompanied by the Inspector of Returned Overseas Forces, General Sir Alfred William Bayly, paid us a second visit. In February a most welcome Cinematograph Machine, presented by the Cadets of No. 5 O.C. Battalion, was installed in the Entertainment room; this has proved a perennial source of amusement and, now and again, of instruction to succeeding "generations" of patients. In February the Chaplain General of the Forces came to see us and gave an address which was exceedingly well received, and well it might be, by the men. During April two of the Wards were taken over and furnished to provide accommodation for 100 extra Officer patients, thus making 150 Officers in all.



On April 11th we saw the hiving off of another Unit, Officers, Orderlies and 49 Sisters, Nurses and V.A.D. Nurses, with Miss Macdonald at their head, together making up another General Hospital, the 55th, with Lieut.-Col. Roderick in command, for service in France. The Matron, with her Staff, set out on April 24th and Miss Macdonald's place at the 1st Eastern was filled by Sister Seymour. On May 16th we had the pleasure of receiving a visit from General Smuts, formerly a clean and honourable enemy, now a firm friend of the Empire.

Another draft of N.C.O.'s and men of the R.A.M.C. was called off for Foreign Service on June 16th.

On June 23rd Admiral Prince Louis and Princess Louis of Battenberg paid an extended visit to the Hospital and had chats with many of the patients. About this time the Senior Chaplain, the Rev. G. A. Chase, C.F., Fellow of Trinity Hall, left for duty with the Army in the Field. He was much missed, but we could not grudge his services to those at the front, and we were very proud of him when he received the Military Cross.

On August 6th, Bank Holiday, Athletic Sports were organised on the University Football Ground for the patients and Nurses of the 1st Eastern, Addenbrooke's, and the Auxiliary Hospitals. Events were chosen suitable to test the powers of wounded men, convalescents, Chair Cases, Nurses and Members of the Unit, and last but not least of the members of the Medical and Surgical Staff, Capt. Malden distinguishing himself by coming in first. On August 30 yet another Athletic Sports Meeting for Nurses and Patients was organised on the King's Field. In October three American Doctors were attached to the Hospital. On October 31st one hundred Officer patients, several of whom were in the original Expeditionary Force, dined together in the Recreation Room to commemorate the 1st Battle of Ypres.

On December 3rd the Marquis of Cambridge visited the Hospital, and in Christmas week the Officers' Recreation Room and Billiard Room was opened.

## **The Dressers.**

*(By Lieut.-Colonel H. B. Roderick, formerly O.C. Medical Unit, C.U.O.T.C.)*

On the outbreak of the war the medical student, in common with the other undergraduate members of the University, was eager to take his part in serving his country in its time of stress and crisis. Unfortunately the "Medical" Cadet in the Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps found himself at a great disadvantage as compared with his combatant brethren, in that, despite his training and the possession maybe of both A and B proficiency cer-



tificates, he was unable to obtain a commission in the R.A.M.C. He could not see any active service until he had secured a medical qualification which, on the average, would not be possible for a couple of years. With a laudable desire to "get to the front" with the least possible delay, we cannot be astonished that many of these men gave up their medical studies and joined various combatant branches of the service as offering a better chance of taking an active part in the war within a reasonable time. This was no doubt very praiseworthy; but can we consider that it was wise to encourage them in such action in view of the enormous increase in our army and the necessity of providing an adequate supply of medical officers, the probability of a lengthy war, and the inevitable increase of mortality amongst the profession owing to casualties, with the consequent necessity of filling up large gaps.

The problem which presented itself then was how to retain these medical students at their work and yet make them feel that they were "doing their bit" for the benefit of their fellows and to the advantage of the State. With the object of solving this problem in Cambridge it was decided to embody the medical students under the machinery of the Medical Unit of the C.U.O.T.C., and to adopt a scheme of training in the following subjects:—First Aid, Bandaging, Antiseptic Principles, Gunshot Wounds, Military Hygiene and Camp Sanitation, Purification of Water, the Inspection of Food, measures to keep down flies, and the organisation of Medical Units in the Field. With the assistance of the officers, non-commissioned officers and cadets of the Medical Unit, the men were also instructed in squad, company, stretcher and ambulance wagon drill, and exercises in the detailed work of a section of Field Ambulance in the field.

On the completion of this somewhat comprehensive and perhaps even ambitious scheme, and with the co-operation of the Deans and Staffs of the various London Hospitals, the students are enabled to proceed to Town, there to take up duties in the wards as temporary dressers, and gain invaluable experience in the treatment and care of wounds and the practical application of the principles of aseptic and antiseptic surgery.

Of the 150 Students who have availed themselves of this training, a few joined the ranks of the R.A.M.C., but were subsequently released in order to pursue their studies, and some obtained posts as "dressers" in Red Cross Hospitals in Flanders, France and Serbia. But the large majority have been content to return to their medical studies and await the time when their services may be more urgently needed.

Unfortunately the post of "dresser" is not a recognised position in the military hospitals, hence it was impossible to offer these men any hope of being





Photo

A Wounded Soldier being conveyed from Ambulance to the Wards.

J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo

Stretcher case being conveyed to British Red Cross ambulance.

J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo

Ambulance train G.N.R. Station platform, Cambridge.  
A case being taken away, and bearers entering carriage for another.

J. Palmer Clarke.





Photo

INTERIOR OF CHAPEL.

J. Palmer Clarke.



Photo

INTERIOR OF REGISTRAR'S OFFICE.

J. Palmer Clarke.



taken on as dressers in these hospitals. In the Navy, however, where a large number of small units are isolated in "destroyers," etc., unqualified men are taken on as Probationary Surgeons, thus supplying each ship with more or less skilled medical assistance, while not depleting the limited ranks of fully qualified men. These probationary surgeonships undoubtedly offer an exhilarating and attractive holiday to the medical student, but unfortunately he gains little if any experience of value, and there is the great drawback attached that it takes him away from his work, and delays his qualification, and interferes with the normal increase in the number of fully qualified men to be drawn upon.

For six months after the outbreak of war it was impossible to offer these men any work at the 1st Eastern General Hospital, but later, when the present Hospital was built and enlarged to accommodate 1,000 and then 1,500 patients, Colonel Griffiths interviewed the authorities at the War Office, and although permission could not be granted, there was no opposition to a scheme allowing medical students to be employed as dressers in the wards of this Hospital. It is due to Colonel Griffiths' co-operation, and to the sympathetic outlook of Sir Alfred Keogh, D.G., of the Medical Services, that the students now enjoy this great privilege.

In a military hospital the students could not be allowed to take up duties as civilians in mufti, whilst for purposes of administration and discipline it was essential that they should belong to some regular unit recognised by the War Office. As members of the C.U.O.T.C. they could be recognised by the War Office, but it was thought undesirable that they should appear in their ordinary C.U.O.T.C. uniform as non-commissioned officers or privates, and at length it was decided to advise them to appear in officers' uniform with Sam Browne belt, O.T.C. cap badge and buttons, and R.A.M.C. collar badge, but with no braiding or rank badges on the sleeves. This at once gave them a unique and unquestioned position in the Hospital between the officers and non-commissioned officers and men. The cadet in the O.T.C., like his confrère at Sandhurst, being an embryo officer, now enjoys by courtesy some of the privileges of an officer.

In January most of the students who were successful in the Anatomy and Physiology of the 2nd M.B. examination in December, commenced duty at the Hospital. They are employed as dressers, assist in the administration of anæsthetics under the supervision and direction of the regular anæsthetist, and help in the ophthalmic, aural and electrical departments of the Hospital. They are on duty in the mornings only, the afternoons being entirely devoted to the ordinary work at the Medical Schools, the whole object of the scheme being to enable the medical student to take a useful, intelligent and active part in the war without any interference with his pursuit of the ordinary medical curriculum.



The success of the scheme may be gauged from the fact that many students have availed themselves of the privileges offered, and the dresser has now made himself almost indispensable in the wards and operating theatres of the Hospital, whilst in return he has gained an unique experience which will help him enormously on the road to qualification.

If this opportunity of doing real service to the State without in any way interfering with their ordinary curriculum has saved these men from their natural inclination, and the pressure of circumstances, to forsake their studies and rush off on various missions, the scheme will have performed a great service to the State, a service which will be even more appreciated in the course of a year or two, when the shrinkage in the number of men entering the profession begins to become apparent.





## List of the Medical and Surgical Staff.

The following is a list of the Medical and Surgical Staff serving during the period until the dispatch of the 41st General Hospital for service in Salonika and of the officers serving abroad, and of those serving at home at later dates:—

Col. J. Griffiths, C.M.G., T.D., Commanding Officer.

Lieut.-Col. F. E. Apthorpe Webb, Registrar.

Hon. Capt. R. H. Porter  
Hon. Capt. H. F. Rutherford } Quartermasters.

Miss Crookenden, Principal Matron. Miss Newton, Matron.

C. E. W. Coe }  
H. McIntyre } Sergeant-Majors.

### STAFF.

Col. H. A. Ballance.  
Lieut.-Col. G. E. Wherry.  
Lieut.-Col. F. Deighton.  
Lieut.-Col. L. Humphry.  
Lieut.-Col. H. B. Roderick.  
Major F. W. Burton-Fanning.  
" A. Cooke.  
" E. Lloyd Jones.  
" R. A. Milligan.  
" J. A. Wright.  
" Hele.  
" M. G. Foster.  
" R. V. Slattery.  
" H. A. Cookson.  
Capt. E. J. Y. Brash.  
" C. H. Budd.  
" R. C. Canney.  
" E. C. Crichton.  
" S. W. Curl.

Capt. J. F. Gaskell.  
" J. Gutch.  
" G. S. Haynes.  
" W. Malden.  
" D. Mallam.  
" W. L. Murphy.  
" B. H. Nicholson.  
" P. N. B. Odgers.  
" J. G. Simpson.  
" H. S. C. Starkey.  
" W. Tyson.  
" J. C. W. Graham.  
" J. R. Owens.  
" W. Burton Marshall.  
" F. Roberts.  
" A. J. Gibson.  
" J. L. M. Symns.  
Lieut. Inchley.

Lieut.-Col. G. Sims Woodhead. O.B.E., V.D. (attached for sanitary duty).

#### *Chaplains.*

Rev. G. A. Chase, M.C.  
" F. A. Simpson.  
" Mgr. Barnes.  
" R. H. Strachan.  
" A. H. McNeile.

#### *Hon. Dentists.*

Mr. D. Edwards.  
Mr. P. Rhodes.







His Majesty the King reviewing the Nurses.



The National Anthem before the departure of His Majesty the King.



Inspection of an open-air Ward.



"Good-bye."



British Red Cross motor ambulances and drivers.

J. Palmer Clarke.

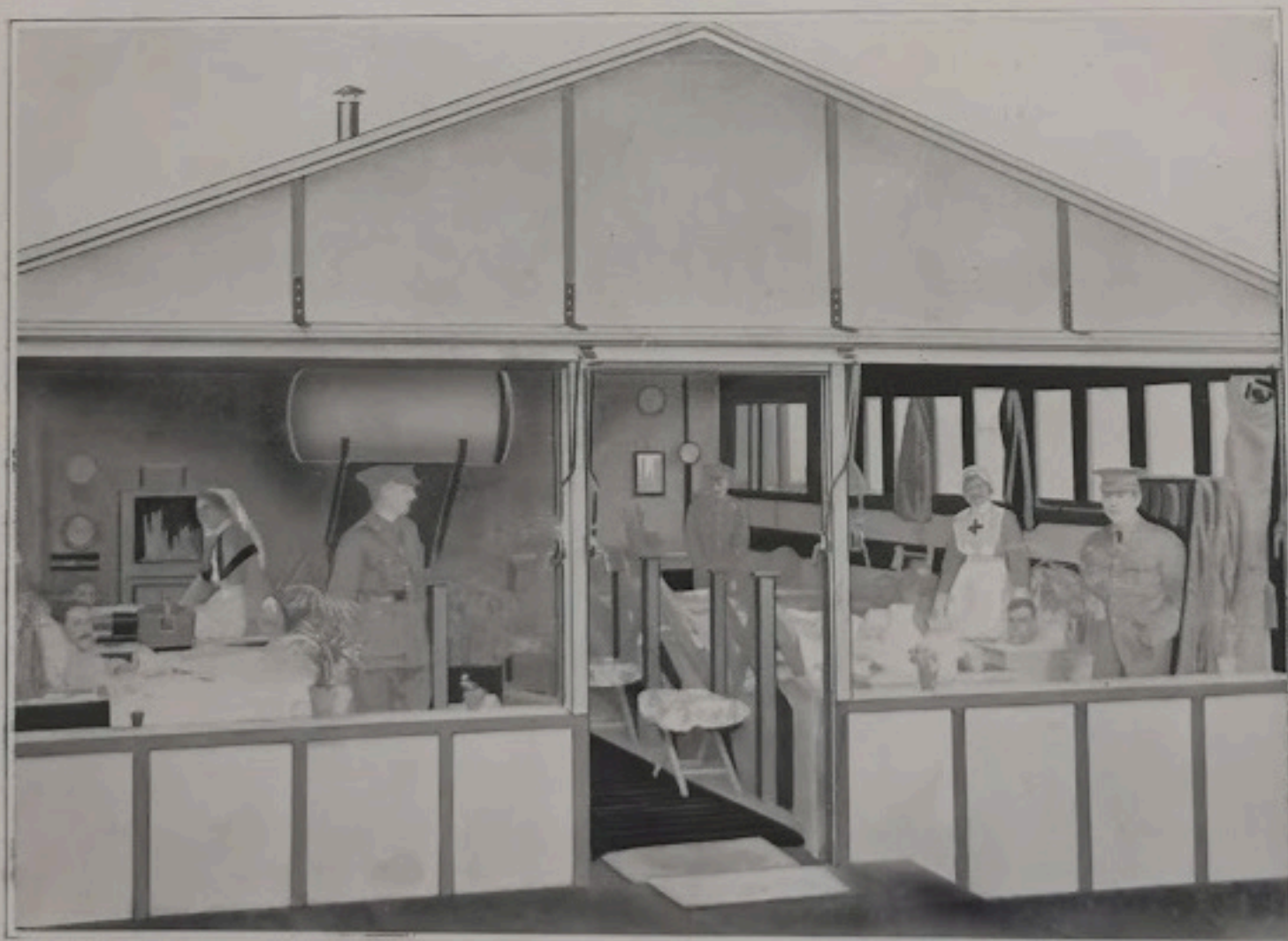




Photo

OPERATING THEATRE ; operations being performed.

J. Palmer Clarke



BATH WARD.



## Statistical Statement.

Statistical statement of the patients that have passed through the 1st Eastern General Hospital from August, 1914, to the end of June, 1918, which shows that 62,664 patients, 351 of whom were Belgians, have been treated.

1ST EASTERN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

*Mobilised 5th August, 1914.*

1st patient received 16th August, 1914.

*Number of Admissions 16th August, 1914—30th June, 1918.*

Expeditionary Force, Officers	..	..	..	..	724
" Men	..	..	..	..	25,374
Mediterranean " "	..	..	..	..	311
Belgian " "	..	..	..	..	351
Home " Officers	..	..	..	..	387
" Men	..	..	..	..	35,517
				Total	62,664

### *Deaths.*

Expeditionary Force	..	..	..	169, <i>i.e.</i> ,	64 per cent.
Belgian Force	..	..	..	4, <i>i.e.</i> ,	1.1 per cent.
Home Force	..	..	..	264, <i>i.e.</i> ,	73 per cent.
				Total	437, <i>i.e.</i> , 69 per cent.

### *Tetanus Cases.*

Cases	..	..	..	18	Deaths 5, <i>i.e.</i> , 27.7 per cent.
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### *Pneumonia.*

Expeditionary Force Cases	..	32	Deaths 2, <i>i.e.</i> ,	26.5 per cent.	
Home Force Cases	..	136	Deaths 10, <i>i.e.</i> ,	7.35 per cent.	
				Total Cases	168 Deaths 12, <i>i.e.</i> , 7.14 per cent.

### *Enteric Fever.*

Expeditionary Force Cases	..	5	Deaths	Nil.	
Mediterranean Cases	..	2	Deaths	Nil.	
Home Force Cases	..	14	Deaths	2, <i>i.e.</i> , 14.3 per cent.	
				Total	21 Deaths 2, <i>i.e.</i> , 9.5 per cent.

### *Epidemic Cerebro Spinal Fever.*

Expeditionary Force Cases	..	2	Deaths	Nil.	
Home Force Cases	..	117	Deaths	42, <i>i.e.</i> , 35.9 per cent.	
				Total	119 Deaths 42, <i>i.e.</i> , 35.3 per cent.



*Admissions during the year ending June 30th, 1918.*

General	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,080
Ophthalmic	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,294
Dental	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,685
							<hr/>
			Total	..	..	..	27,059
							<hr/>

*One Month's Work—June, 1918.*

Admissions	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,083
Transferred to V.A.D. Auxiliary Hospitals					..	..	2,496
Discharged to duty and furlough				..	..	..	1,064
Medically boarded			..	..	..	..	276
Cases treated in Dental Department			..	..	..	..	588
Cases examined in Ophthalmic Department			..	..	..	..	336

