

## THE SOCIETY OF YORKSHIREMEN IN LONDON.

### THE YORKSHIRE SOLDIERS' VISITING COMMITTEE.

The Society of Yorkshiremen in London, 12, Coleman Street, E.C., of which the King is Patron, and the Earl of Scarborough Chairman, has formed a Yorkshire Soldiers' Visiting Committee, which, with the sanction of the hospital authorities, arranges for the systematic visiting of all wounded soldiers and sailors of Yorkshire birth, or in Yorkshire Regiments, from time to time detained in the hospitals in and around London. The visitors communicate by letter with the relatives of these soldiers on their behalf; in suitable cases assist such relatives living at a distance to visit the soldiers, see that all needed garments are supplied and do anything which may be deemed necessary to promote the interests and welfare of the men. Funds to carry out these objects are supplied by Yorkshiremen and others interested in the work.

As thirty or more hospitals are now being used by the Military Authorities in the London District the work is of considerable extent. Miss Bertha B. Charlesworth, a member of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League, who is one of the visitors, writes concerning this "Yorkshire Society for Befriending Wounded Soldiers of Yorkshire Birth":

"It is a very necessary work, and much appreciated by all the men, and during my three months' work, soldiers belonging to other counties (especially from a long distance) have often expressed a desire that their county had a similar Society. The Authorities of the Military Hospitals are most kind in giving their assistance in finding out the men, but I need hardly add that the visitor must realise that she must conform to regulations and leave the ward *at once* should the Sister express a desire that she should do so. I, personally, have received great kindness from all the Sisters, who do their best to help me in every possible way to find out the men. This is sometimes a very difficult task (not as regards Yorkshire Regiments) as the Registrar supplies me with the new list as the Convoys come in. The difficulty is when the men are of Yorkshire birth in different regiments, and it is almost impossible not to miss them sometimes, as in the Hospital I visit there are 34 wards. Between the 1st of January and the 1st of April, 60 men have passed through my hands and 12 of these have been transferred to the other Auxiliary Hospitals in connection with the large Military one, and I try to visit them once every week; the Military Hospital, I go three times a week to visit, 16 men, being quite alone. I have fetched Yorkshire patients when convalescent from the Hospital gates and taken them across London to their trains. The Society gives me 2s. a head for each man, and I show him St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, the War Office, &c., on the way, and give him a good dinner before I put him in the

train. Generally I have the men about 4 hours, sometimes even all day, if they have a night boat to catch. They are all supplied with cigarettes, stamps, note paper, when they ask, and the Society has paid the fares from Yorkshire of three wives and one mother belonging to my men. I meet them and take them to stay with a Corporal's wife in London, also a Yorkshire woman, whose husband is at the Front, and having no children she takes quite an interest in any mother or wife I send to her.

"The men on arriving home send most grateful letters of thanks, saying how lonely they would have felt without the Society, and even continue to write a month after. I have just had the great pleasure of bringing up a mother to see her son who was reported dead, and whose brother was carried off under his eyes as a German prisoner. The man went out to the Front without saying good-bye to his mother, and it was touching to see the meeting after 18 months' separation. The mother is now up in London for five days, and goes daily to see her son. Of course, this bringing up of relatives has to be done with great discretion, as naturally *all* want their near relations up to see them. In the case of this man he was 3 weeks in one Hospital and 5 weeks in the other, and it was owing to a relapse that we sent for the mother, as the disappointment each week of not being able to go home was telling upon his health."

"This seems to be a piece of practical and useful work which might well be organized in connection with other counties." B. B. C.

### CATCH THAT SPY.

First our factories and now our hospitals for the wounded are being mysteriously fired, and the fact that 13,000 alien enemies are still at large in the Metropolis alone, is arousing an ever-growing sense of indignation amongst the people. Sudbourne Hall, Suffolk, and Dunrobin Castle, Sutherland, have been nearly destroyed by fire; mercifully, our wounded men were safely removed without injury—but the loss is colossal.

Then a most disastrous holocaust occurred at Park Royal, W., and the loss includes the destruction of 300 motor-ambulances for the Royal Army Medical Corps, and motor-vans for the Army Ordnance and Army Service Corps, in the construction of which men have been engaged day and night for weeks, and which were just ready for delivery.

A fleet of motor-ambulances, commissioned by the Joint War Committee, were, by good fortune, on the road to Southampton when the fire broke out, and were thus saved. Emergency legislation is being urged, to allay public anxiety.

Then we read of an Austrian spy as a Member of the British Parliament—for which British born women have no vote!—and the tardy deportation of one of the most notorious and infamous pests of German nationality, Mme. Bertha Trost, highly skilled in espionage, who has been per-

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