

for one or two weeks. The usual daily routine is as follows:—Breakfast in bed at 9 a.m.; this is taken up to their rooms on trays and consists of tea and coffee, eggs, bacon or ham, marmalade, rolls and butter. They generally get up and go for a walk about 11 a.m., and luncheon is at one o'clock, consisting of soup or fish, roast beef or mutton, or chicken, various puddings, stewed fruits, cheese and coffee. At about 2.30 to 3 o'clock an ambulance comes out from Boulogne (11 miles distant) bringing any fresh patients or Sisters who have a 'half-day' off duty and would like to spend the afternoon with us. The mail-bag generally arrives by this ambulance, and people and ambulances usually keep coming and going until tea-time at 4.30. Tea consists of bread cut from the very long French loaves, rolls round and crescent shaped, jam, butter, cakes (generally home-made), and tea. About 5.30 or 6 p.m. the afternoon ambulance returns to Boulogne with any patients who may be returning 'fit for duty,' and the 'half-day' visitors.

"The 'Despatch Rider' plying between Boulogne and Etaples (some 25 miles apart) usually arrives at about 5 o'clock, bringing a quantity of daily and weekly papers kindly given by the British Red Cross Society and much appreciated by the occupants of the Home. After tea in winter-time they work and read, and play Bridge or 'Patience,' and do picture puzzles. Letter-writing also occupies a large portion of their time, for in Hospital, as everyone knows, letters never get written. In summer, of course, the woods and sand dunes, whose beauty and variety can never be realised unless seen, afford endless attraction until dinner-time. This meal is at 7.30 and is very simple, consisting of one meat course, with vegetables and a pudding, cheese, biscuits and dessert, followed by a cup of chocolate. It should here be mentioned that the Home is fortunate in possessing a particularly good French cook in the person of Madame Famchon, wife of the Duke of Argyll's old French retainer, who is not above adapting herself to English dishes beloved by English people.

"The new-comers then hurriedly go off to bed to enjoy nice fires in their bedrooms in winter, which are an especial treat in this country; while the older inhabitants resort to the same amusements as before dinner. We are hoping soon for a piano, which will be a great asset. For the first few days they seem too tired in body and mind to care to do anything, and so many are unable to sleep from the strain they have been going through. Those from casualty clearing stations have generally the sound of the guns still in their ears, and are worn out for the time being. But very soon a change takes place, and in three or four days they begin to want to take long walks; and eat and sleep better. The Medical Officer attached to the Home is from 25 General Hospital, about 2½ miles away. We are connected by telephone to this hospital, so that he can be sent for at any moment if necessary, beyond his ordinary visits to the patients.

"It may be of interest to mention the number of hospitals from which we have received patients, and a few other particulars. The Home stands midway between two large hospital areas, Wimereux and Boulogne to the North, Camiers and Etaples to the South; the latter, specially, are vast camps, almost towns, of hospitals, lying under the hills. Our patients also come from the casualty clearing stations, which are the hospitals nearest to the fighting line; and from hospital ships, barges and ambulance trains, from St. Omer, Calais, Abbeville, Le Treport, Rouen, Versailles, and all parts of France. These hospitals represent all the different branches of the Nursing Services in France: Army Regulars, Territorials, Reserve, Military Probationers, Australian, Canadian and American Units, British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance, and V.A.D. It can be easily realised that the various uniforms present a very picturesque scene when gathered together at meal times—with the scarlet capes of the Regulars, the grey and scarlet of the Territorials and Reserve, the dark blue dresses with red collars and cuffs and brass buttons of the Canadians, the blue of the Red Cross and black and grey of St. John, and the bright touches of colour from the different American units."

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF URGENCY CASES HOSPITAL FOR FRANCE.

The past month has been the busiest for the hospital since it came to France. On the morning of February 13th, I received orders to clear the hospital as far as possible. Accordingly, 68 patients were sent into the interior next day—only 16 serious cases remained. No more wounded were received until February 23rd. Since then 227 have been admitted, making a total of 236 for the month (February 11th to March 10th); 1,594 since the hospital came out.

All these patients have come from Verdun and the surrounding parts. They were brought from Bar-le-Duc in ambulances, and generally arrived at night. On the 29th, we received 33 patients. Many of the wounded have only their field-dressings on their wounds. Some of them have been in a terrible condition from exposure and want of food. One poor fellow had lain in the water in a shell-hole for two days before he was found by the stretcher-bearers.

The cases have nearly all been serious, and the wounds—on the whole—have been more terrible than anything we have had to treat. Most of the wounds were from shells, and the proportion of compound fractures has been very high. . . .

I regret to say that gas gangrene has been very rife, and of a peculiarly virulent form. Amputation has, unfortunately, been very necessary in some of the cases, and even then it has frequently proved ineffectual in arresting the progress of the disease.

During the month 100 operations have been performed. . . . In addition . . . numerous minor operations have been performed in the wards. There have been eight deaths (total, 54).

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