

THE WAR.

Premier to President—Lasting Bonds.

Mr. Winston Churchill has sent the following message to Mr. Roosevelt in reply to that from the President conveying greetings from Congress to our Armed Forces:

"I have received the stirring message sent by you, Mr. President, at this season from the Congress and on behalf of the people of the United States, and have arranged for its transmission to the Armed Forces of Great Britain on land, and sea and in the air in all parts of the Empire or in enemy territory.

"I know it would be their wish that I should cordially reciprocate these greetings.

"During the past year we have welcomed ever-growing forces from America in our ports and camps and on our airfields. In all theatres of operations men of America and men of Britain have fought side by side under each other's command as circumstances required.

"Bonds of respect, comprehension, and comradeship have been forged which will, I pray, far outlive this war and be a lasting support in the labours of peace when, after we have won the victory, we strive to build together a better and a happier world."

Devotion to Duty.

We hear little of the work being done by medical men whose services are invaluable in war. It takes many forms. At a recent meeting of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, the inspiring devotion to duty of Dr. G. A. Ryrie, the head of the great leper settlement at Sungei Buloh, established by the Government of the Federated Malay States, was recorded. He refused to be evacuated and remained to care for the lepers when the territory was over-run by the Japanese. Dr. Ryrie has been reported a prisoner, but he was still carrying on his good work by request of the Japanese. The Association has offered financial help to the settlement should it be needed.

Our Turn Next.

We were pleased to note in the *Evening Standard* that the wounded are receiving prompt and first-class skilled attention from the medical profession on the field, and that thus much suffering and risk to life is saved. We are pleased to have it known that everything skilled surgery can do is being done to restore those who fall for their country on the field of battle. Nothing we can do is enough for their sacrifices endured to save the world from destruction. Let us be thinking what we can individually do in return for their heroism, when they return home.

Surgeons Operate on the Battlefield.

General Anderson's North Africa campaign has produced a revolution in dealing with the wounded. Surgeons are now rushed to the forward areas, and operate on the battlefield itself, says Reuter's special correspondent with the First Army on the Tunisian Front.

The Director of Medical Services of the First Army told me this had been done by the employment for the first time of field surgical units.

"We are now able to provide Harley Street surgery on the field," he said.

"Units have a first-class operating theatre, and can perform practically any operation. There is no improvisation about this. The surgeon is a specialist or a graded surgeon.

"We do not tell the medical officer to do the surgery. We are achieving the modern desire for surgery within six hours. Septic wounds disappear if adequate surgery is applied sufficiently early.

"Actually our casualty clearing station, which is very

far forward, is achieving this, and the field surgical unit is getting cases much more quickly."

Air Evacuation.

The D.M.S., who was on a visit to the front to ensure the best possible medical arrangements, revealed plans for the air evacuation of the wounded, which are now being put into practice.

"We are using American transport airplanes to get the casualties to the base hospitals. They are specially designed flying ambulances—not just ordinary transport airplanes being used for the purpose."

Later, beside a great Red Cross formed on the ground by red painted empty petrol tins, was a field surgical unit under an R.A.M.C. major formerly at a West London hospital.

In an operating tent, 25 feet by 15 feet, there was sufficient room to take 20 beds comfortably.

"Each unit," he said, "is composed of one surgeon, one anaesthetist and eight medical orderlies.

"We have our own generating plant, and we can perform 100 major operations without replenishment of medical supplies."

Help for Poles.

The Duchess of Gloucester has consented to become patroness of the Polish Paderewski Hospital in Edinburgh.

The Paderewski Memorial Hospital, Edinburgh.

American generosity has been added to the kindness of the Scottish nation to the Polish nurses and doctors driven from their own land. The Paderewski Memorial Hospital, which was founded in March, 1941, in Edinburgh, through the subscription of British and American money and by the courtesy and co-operation of the Edinburgh medical and civic authorities, has now been given a grant of 75,000 dollars (nearly £15,500) by the Rockefeller Foundation to purchase the necessary equipment and instruments for the Medical School and Hospital. At present there are 200 medical students in Edinburgh released from the fighting forces of Poland to become doctors. Twenty-seven of these are Poles who have been evacuated from Russia. This magnificent gesture has followed the present visit to America of Professor A. T. Durasz, Dean of the Polish Medical Faculty.

General de Gaulle Visits Fighting French in Hospital.

Thirteen Fighting French Navy men, the first convalescent patients in a West of Scotland mansion-house, Knockderry Castle, near Kilcreggan, which was recently handed over to the service of the Fighting French Forces, primarily for naval personnel, had a happy time on Christmas Eve, when their leader, General de Gaulle, spent an hour with them, wishing them a happy Christmas, and handing them gifts from the hospital's Christmas tree.

Knockderry Castle was placed at the disposal of the Government, rent free, two years ago by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. Sloan, and has till now been used by the Department of Health for Scotland as an emergency hospital for both Service and civilian patients.

The General was welcomed to the hospital by Mr. W. R. Fraser, Secretary to the Department of Health, and Dr. A. B. Waleer, Senior Hospital Officer for the Western District. General De Gaulle, in expressing in French his thanks to the Scottish Department, said he hoped the friendship between Great Britain and France which the hospital symbolised would last and would have better days than it had ever known.

In the hospital itself, the Scottish nurses and Frenchmen are eagerly attempting to learn each other's language and making good progress. One of the sailors cooks French dishes for his comrades so that they may feel at home.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)