

THIRD INTERIM REPORT OF NO. 1 NEUROLOGICAL HOSPITAL, RCAMC., CASF.

This report consists of a letter received from Lt.-Col. C.E. Cross, Officer Commanding, under date of August 1st, 1940:

"Continuing this outline to friends at home for the month of July:-

"Dominion day was celebrated by a formal Mess Dinner in which you, our sympathizers at home, were toasted most deeply.

"Almost upon arrival the officers and later the men proceeded on landing leave.

"We continue in a 'camp' milieu but the life in the open is delightful and invigorating. No response to our ever-impatient question 'When do we establish our focus of operation?' Week by week assurance is given that it will be soon, but the fulfilment is delayed. As to where we are more assured, for a site of unheralded pretensions has been approved by the Canadian Government and it is 'negotiations' between the representatives of that body and the Ministry of Health, who must take the property over in our behalf, that has slowed up the matter of earlier occupation.

"The Unit is to be located at the mansion and within the extensive estate of a peer who has offered the whole to the Government for war service use. There are acres and acres of lawn, park and forest. Deer and pheasants roam these; there are immense gardens, hunting lodges, garages, stables, park and farm dwellings, saw-mill, cattle and dairy accommodations, swimming pool and guarded park gates at various points.

"Adaptation of the mansion-home will be made to the uses of the hospital work, but several additional huts will be required to accommodate x-ray, surgery, administration and probably ward needs. Those latter will require several months to achieve, but it is hoped that all services can begin function as of occupation of the main building at least in a small way.

"To man such a project a great deal of additional personnel will be required: guards, civilian help, and even greater ward and operating assistance than is provided in the establishment. Meanwhile the late occupant has much furniture to remove and his stables to adjust.

"Recently with fear of imminent enemy action, it was thought wise to consider any moves that might enable our surgical section to meet a possible emergency. Accordingly, a re-inventory of the available instrument and operating equipment which has actually been delivered here was made, with a view to immediate action on the parts of the surgical teams to cope with casualties at separate points if this was demanded. Insufficient supplies were found to have been received, however, for this purpose. Fortunately the suspected crisis did not develop, and since that time many of the essentials, then absent, have come.

"One neurologist, Captain J. C. Richardson, has been detailed to a barrack some 15 miles distant, where there is a medical centre for the housing (without reformatory treatment) of a group of class "E" men, who are destined for transport to Canada.

"Amendment of the Unit's establishment to include a 'Home-Sister' has been made. This important vacancy has not been filled as yet.

"The Majority for Captain Childe has been published.

"Officers have been called on to relieve, act on boards, consult in neuro-psychotic cases at various times and places. They have also been approached to go to distant units as medical officers, but this last I have been able to discourage as it would threaten permanent or longstanding disruption of the Unit as a complete structure and would imperil the purpose and ideals of the original conception as planned.

"During the latter part of the month occasion has been taken for many of the officers to visit the more noted clinics of England, and observe actual casualty management from admission to post-operative care.

"For this purpose, Captains Humphreys and McCormick have gone to the Oxford Clinic of Colonel Hugh Cairns. Captains Childe and Stewart are following the treatment of head and spine injuries with Jefferson at Manchester. They will be asked to make written appreciations of their experience and observations for the Unit's records.

"Upon the return of the noted officers it is proposed to give to Major Hyland, Captain Hanson and Captain Richardson the opportunity to attend under Denny-Brown at Oxford, the routine care of neuro-psychotic war casualties.

"Captain Boddington, anaesthetist, is at present in London beginning an itinerary to centres where his specialty is best observed.

"Captain V. H. Jekill, our Dental expert, is practising with his attached personnel at Acton, London. He is servicing the troops at that centre of Canadian Headquarters.

"Lt.-Cols. Cone and Russel and Major Botterell are in London on divided duty as both representing the Unit at C.M.H.Q. and continuing the tests of Dagenan upon the brain tissues of cats.

"The O.C. has been four times to London for consultation with the D.G.M.S., (Overseas), Col. Linton, re delays in location. Also he has been to the selected site for our establishment, and has drawn plans for projected 'huts' for enlargement of services. It is strongly hoped that before another monthly report goes to you, the Neurological Hospital will be occupying its new home".

"N.B. Please substitute the word SULPHANILAMIDE for SULPHAPYRIDINE where same occurs in last month's issue. I did not re-edit same after the typist had copied from his notes. My copy shows this error.

CEC."

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Further reports will be issued at intervals. Any items of interest for these reports should be sent to Dr. Wilder Penfield or Dr. Norman Petersen at the Montreal Neurological Institute.