

TENTH INTERIM REPORT OF THE NO. 1 NEUROLOGICAL HOSPITAL, RCAMC.

Hard on the heels of the interim reports for February and March comes the following cheerful chatter from the Commanding Officer of the No. 1 Neurological Hospital.

Hackwood Park,  
Basingstoke, Hants, England.

April 30th, 1941.

Performance has been signaled by growth from numerical nothings in September's few patients to a continued 'in excess' of available beds up to 120.

Admissions for each month are shown as:-

October, 1940	79	
November, "	92	
December, "	69	
January, 1941	87	
February, "	100	
March, "	92	
April, "	82	Total 601.

An outstanding performance is to be mentioned in the parts played by Major Botterell, who has fitted opportunely into hiatuses in the British neurosurgical war-drama in the role of understudy to two chiefs of the art. December and January at Prof. Geoffrey Jefferson's clinic in Manchester:- March and April at Prof. Hugh Cairn's hospitals in Oxford. (See appended letter.) But every officer of both services has given laboriously and freely of his superlative best, and the unit troops have followed in verisimilitude of service with their superiors. Lieut-Col. Russel, and to a lesser extent, his staff have acted as neuro-psychiatrists-consultants to the forces over wider and wider areas, making long trips in the unit's transport, examining and completing expert reports.

Lieut-Col. Cone has had marked success in his increasing proportion of interventions under the severe disadvantage of delay at other hospitals beforehand. He also has traveled much to examine and advise.

In academic effort, too, there is attainment to report. A paper has been published on "Blast Effects" after a great deal of initial study. "Effects of Bombing on Hospitals" was made after extensive first hand experience in the Manchester and Coventry Blitzes, and has received merited commendation.

A research article dealing with the solubility of sulphanilamide and kindred drugs on the brains of animals is nearing completion.

Lectures and discussions of war-neurological and war-surgical subjects have been given before Medical Societies at several headquarters. Several additional intriguing scientific matters are at present under study and will be given expression.

Of the recent month:

Gratefully to providence - life has gone fairly smoothly on. Spring and Invasion have promised but failed, in England, to fulfill. Is one as inevitable as the other?

The cuckoo's shrill plaint and the occasional H.E. shell, both 'rockus' though the latter more or less gently

from afar. Frequent evenings are siren-punctuated and bright with search-lights and/or flares and incendiaries. Days are mostly un-infested by Junker-optera and our patients enjoy the freedom of the park, or beds are rolled out on the South pavement, through the sandbag barriers, for sun intervals.

Of the 12 huts - 10 are now erected and the ward units lined with fibre-board. These will be painted a complacent green before partitions are placed. The hidden wiring is installed and all underground plumbing laid. The 2 remaining huts are now being raised on completed substructures.

Another service is being provided for, - that of animal experimentation. Although planned since hospital inception, the actual quarters for same are only now being completed. For this the box-stalls in the stables are to be re-fashioned. An animal room, a laboratory and an experimental room are in the series. Similar boxes are to be devoted to other uses. One as a morgue and another as a chapel for funerals. The garage and stable block is located about 400 yards from the main building.

Vivisection is rigidly frowned upon over here. Special license and particular examination of animal quarters and feeding are strictly enforced by law. Re-inspections are frequent and severe. Some experimental work is being, or to be devoted to practical application of ionization of Sulphanilamide, etc.; through surface membranes.

#### Of unit memoirs:-

Visitors during the month have been -

Dr. Gordon Holmes, with a confrere, Dr. Fitzgerald on the fifth instant. Dr. Holmes conducted a clinic on cases seen in the wards, to which the staff officers contributed.

Outgoing visitations, apart from professional consultative journeys by our staff experts, include:

The whole Nursing and Officer personnel guests of Lord and Lady Camrose at an afternoon reception at their present home.

#### Of the Nursins Sisters especially:-

The three Nurses (Sisters Dearden, Douglas and Gray) from No. 1 Can. Gen. Hosp., who had undergone 3 weeks of special training here, returned to their own station on the 21st instant, very pleased and appreciative.

Two Sisters who had German Measles, have resumed duty. The infection did not spread.

Two of the N/S (Grimes and Scott) have made application to return to Canada to be married. This has been granted in the case of the latter - the former's plea is still pending action.

There has been opened, by the Cdn. Government in England, a lovely home with beautiful surroundings, especially and entirely for Cdn. Nurses' delectation. There is a resident staff of servants and meals, riding, swimming and other comforts are provided. At very light expense, Nurses may pass days of leave or go there for night accommodation from London. The zeal and effort of the matron-in-chief, Pense, has been untiring in achieving this sanctuary. It is not un-Eden-ic, gentlemen friends may visit and have meals on occasion.

Of General Unit Interest:-

The problem of dealing with the evil of condensation of steam from the sterilizers, off the operating room, which committed the nuisance of dripping on to sterile gowns, instruments and gloves - has been solved by lining the walls with fibreboard, and installing twin exhaust fans in the ceiling.

A few days after Easter, parcels from the M.N.I. began to come to the unit. A gift for each individual, cigars for some, toes-clothes for nearly all, swell knit and purl creations in sweater form for fortunates. Eight parcels are known to have arrived, and it is possible that others, if sent, will still come safely. I have had so many requests to send thanks, and Col. Russel has wired. To Miss Flanagan, and all her fairy wand-wavers, abundant thanksgiving, echoes of scores of grateful men's voices.

Sports items of the unit:-

Feeling the call of Spring, the need to fill long light evenings and the tightening of cooperation, a program of sports was planned. The Officer and other Rank personnel have been parcelled into five groups - each having 3 officers and 18 N.C.O.s and men. Scheduled series of soft ball and volley ball matches have been outlined and several of the games played. Much enthusiasm incident to the games and the element of team play are not lacking. Good 'bases' for 'playing the game'.

Twice during the month a picked team of the N.H.U. has played a soft ball match with a No.15 Cdn. Gen. Hosp. nine. Each time victory has been ours. One game played here, and a return meet held at Bramshott.

We have promised to provide matches on the program of the Basingstoke War Savings Campaign week of the 18th May, to assist in the civilian effort and objective.

Our private golf course is being put into better shape and a few golphiles are making occasional good shots on the yet indifferent fairways. The greens are in rather fair condition.

An earnest attempt is being made to form a cricket team or teams. A 'pitch' has been chosen, smoothed and mown, wickets, bats, etc., have been secured and quite a list of neophytes are showing interest.

But all sports shiveringly await spring. The Sun and temperature go down and goose-flesh rises all in miserable unison.

Until the close of May, sincerely for  
the Unit.

C. E. Cross.