To
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Royal Army Medical College.
April 1912.

KETTLE OR IRON PLATE

RÉCHAUFFMENT.

FIG. I.
BLANKETS & STRETCHER HEATED READY FOR PATIENT.

FIG. II
PATIENT HEATING UP.

FIG. III
READY FOR TRANSPORT.

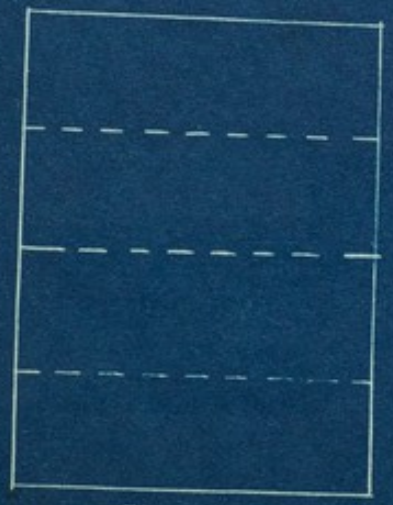


FIG. I.

FIG. II

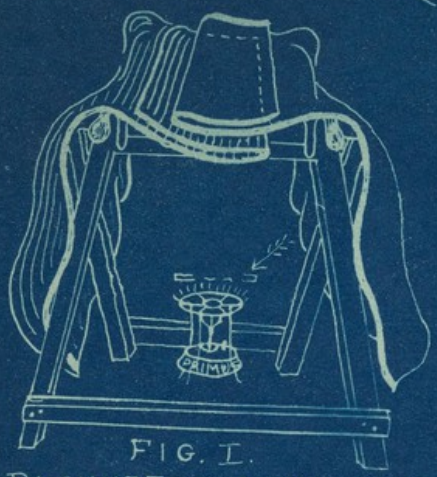
FIG III

W.S.

FIG. IV

KETTLE OR IRON PLATE

RÉCHAUFFMENT.



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PATIENT HEATING UP.

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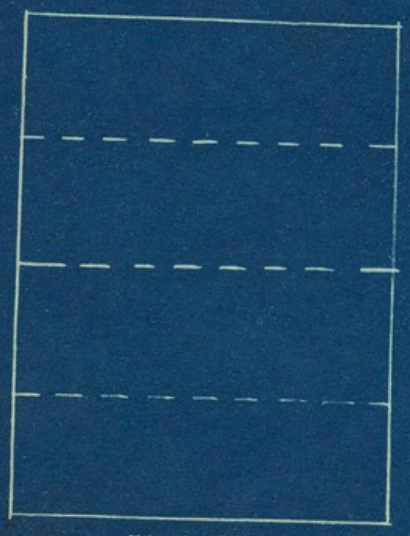

FIG. I.

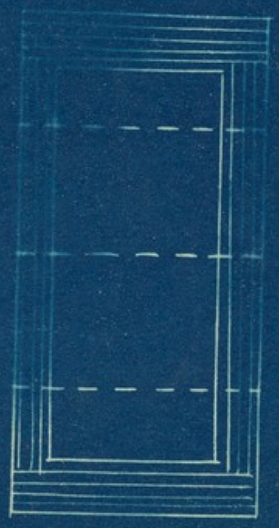

FIG. II

FIG III

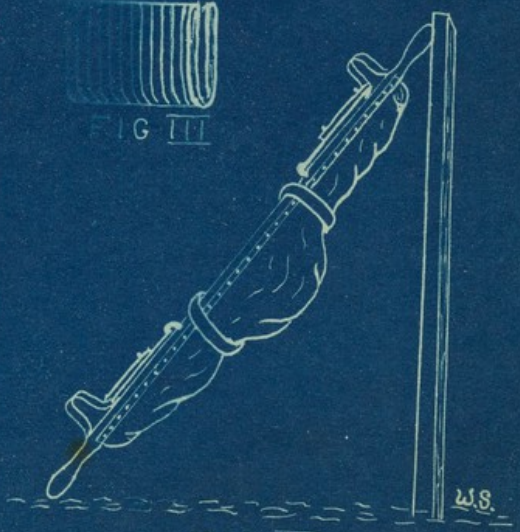

FIG. IV

The Water-proof Sheet - Blanket Packer.
1917

I Army G.S. Blanket

II Folded into 4, laid on ground sheet.

III Edges turned in, folded 4 times = size of shelter pillow

IV Carried in closed shelter - Comfortable pad for S.B's shoulder

Ernest Cowell

The Wilkin-proofsheet - Blanket Packer.
1917

I Army G.S. Blanket
II Folded into 4, laid on ground sheet.
III Edges turned in, folded 4 times = size of shelter pillow
IV Carried in closed shelter - Comfortable pad for S.B.'s shoulder

E. A. Cowell

DIARY

OF

Surgeon-General, Sir W.D. Wilson, K.C.M.G., M.B.

PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER

OF THE

FIELD FORCE

IN

SOUTH AFRICA

8 NOV. 1899 to 19 AP. 1901.

From the PRINCIPAL MEDICAL OFFICER, the Army in South Africa, to the UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR.

Cape Town,
8th November 1899.

SIR,

IN accordance with paragraph 646, Regulations for Army Medical Services, I have the honour to forward the information therein required, up to date.

Having landed from the s.s. "Dunottar Castle" on 31st October, I proceeded the same day to the railway depôt at Salt River, and inspected the two ambulance trains which have been constructed locally for the purpose of running over the Cape railway system.

These trains are fitted with comfortable fixed bunks, with horse-hair mattresses, in two tiers. One train accommodates 104, and the other 94, lying down cases. Each train is provided with a good kitchen with range, a bath, pack and linen stores, racks for arms, latrines, dispensary, accommodation for the staff, &c.

They are well found, and should prove of immense help to the medical service.

I made several suggestions towards improving still further these excellent means of transport, and these suggestions were readily complied with by the railway authorities; amongst other things, I directed that another ordinary corridor coach be added, in order to afford better accommodation to the officers in medical charge, and for wounded officers and soldiers able to travel sitting up.

There are tanks for water, a refrigerator, cupboards for stores, &c. The whole is well ventilated by the ridge method, independently of the windows.

1*st November* 1899.—I inspected the medical stores left at the base; these have been reduced to a low ebb, owing to the numerous calls from Natal and the up-country stations in Cape Colony now occupied by troops. The P.M.O. of the base (Colonel Supple) informed me that he had requisitioned on home for more stores, and I presume that the stores for No. 2 Base Depôt, and for the advanced depôts will soon be to hand. (Your cable No. 37, dated London, 6th November 1899, is just to hand, giving full information as to the despatch of medical and surgical stores.)

In the afternoon I proceeded to Wynberg, and inspected No. 1 General Hospital, which is being prepared for 520 beds, Lieut.-Colonel Anthonisz in charge. The personnel is deficient of 52 Reservists, who have not yet come out.

The hospital buildings are composed of pre-existing huts, which formed the station hospital and barracks at Wynberg.

The hospital is delightfully situated on a wooded slope, well sheltered, and commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country.

Special attention is being paid to the operating theatre; it has a marble floor, "rounded" corners, means for flushing the whole room, good natural light, and electric light installed, as is the case throughout the institution.

The pack and linen stores, surgeries, kitchens, and accessories are commodious and suitable.

I directed that the accommodation for officers should at once be raised from 20 to 32; the billiard room of the original officers' mess, and two adjacent rooms being appropriated for this purpose.

The nursing sisters are accommodated in the original officers quarters.

2*nd November*.—One hundred sick and wounded arrived this day from Natal in the s.s. "Jelunga"—95 of these were surgical cases, one serious case of dysentery. These were all entrained in an ambulance train and despatched to No. 1 General Hospital without any delay.

3*rd November*.—To-day I inspected all the sick and wounded in No. 1 General Hospital.

I 12899.—1. 50.—7/1900. Pk. 95. E. & S.

In many case the wounds had completely healed with no ill effects whatever; the wounds of entry and exit were of the same size and appearance. About 14 days had elapsed since the wounds had been received. There was one case of amputation, viz., of the left arm; this, the soldier stated, resulted from a bullet wound of the elbow, and which he thought must have been an "explosive" bullet, as it shattered the limb so completely. He was only 300 yards from the enemy, and only infantry fire was being used; no doubt it was a Mauser bullet exhibiting the well-known "explosive" results at this short range.

There were a good many matters in connexion with this inspection which I brought to the notice of the officer in charge. I also directed that the accommodation of the hospital should be raised without delay to (600) six hundred beds in all; this can easily be effected.

4th November.—This morning I inspected the "Sick Transport, Spartan," Major Woodhouse in charge. I found everything most satisfactory in every way. The construction and fittments of this vessel being known at home, I need not describe them. "Cans, Soup" and "Diet Trays" appear necessary to add to the Schedule, Army Form G. 1098—59. These articles were much required; they were, however, obtained here on requisition from the Army Ordnance Department, and supplied to the ship. The "Spartan" arrived on 3rd November, and sailed for Durban on the evening of the 4th with a view to bringing down wounded to this place.

7th November.—I again inspected No. 1 General Hospital, and found the wounded to be progressing most favourably. It is interesting to note that there are several cases of clean perforation of bone by bullets, without any accompanying fracture or shattering, and they have healed readily.

There has been one resection, viz. of the elbow joint.

There is an interesting case of a man whose right parietal bone had been "scored" by a bullet; there was not any depression of bone, but marked paresis of left leg; this is rapidly passing off, and has nearly disappeared, pointing to hæmorrhage at seat of injury as its cause.

8th November.—I have now arranged to take over the major portion of the main barracks wherein to establish No. 2 General Hospital, which the general military situation has rendered advisable that this unit should be in, or in close proximity, to Cape Town. The necessary preliminary work will be commenced at once, in anticipation of the arrival of the personnel and equipment of this hospital.

I am of opinion that the buildings obtained will prove of great value; it is most undesirable to use tents here if it can be avoided, owing to the strong gales which occur from time to time, and which completely levels a camp of tents.

Two new brigades have been formed, and this necessitated the General Commanding-in-Chief requisitioning by cable on the War Office for one more Bearer Company. If it had not been for the local Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, it would have been impossible to have met the requirements with that demand only.

I have, &c.

W. D. Wilson, Surg.-General,
P.M.O.

Army Headquarters, Cape Town,
15th November 1899.

Sir,

In continuation of my report, dated 8th instant, I now have the honour to inform you that it has been decided not to appropriate the Main Barracks for No. 2 General Hospital.

This hospital is to be located at Wynberg in the vicinity of No. 1, and will be principally under canvas, but with some permanent buildings. It is hoped that the sheltered site selected will, to a certain extent, minimise any inconveniences that might be caused by the stormy gales. No suitable building, other than the barracks, could be found in Cape Town.

9th November 1899.—I inspected a fresh draft of wounded which had arrived in the "Sumatra" from Natal; this draft included 15 officers, all of whom are doing well. The s.s. "Moor" arrived to-day with the staffs of 3 Infantry Divisions.

11th November.—Messrs. Major & Co., of Hull, presented to the force, through their agents here, a large consignment of disinfectants, deodorants, &c., valued at over 200*l.*; a quantity of these have been issued to the General Hospital at Wynberg, and a considerable amount has been kept as a reserve.

12th November.—The sick transport "Trojan" arrived from England; all well on board. I inspected her to-day.

From information received, I find that there is still a suspicion that the water on one route may be tampered with, that is so far as wells and ponds are concerned. In order to leave no precaution unadopted, and also to allay any anxiety amongst the troops, I have caused *small* tin boxes containing the reagents for one test (prussian blue) to be prepared and the necessary simple directions for the test for cyanide affixed to the inside of the lid, and these are being issued to regiments likely to proceed on the route in question (viz., that north of Orange River).

Colonel Stevenson and Major Sylvester arrived to-day in the "Garcon."

13th November.—I visited No. 1 General Hospital (Wynberg) accompanied by Colonel Stevenson. We minutely examined all the wounded with the exception of the officers (for which there was not time). On the whole all the cases were in a very satisfactory condition; the majority, indeed, had practically recovered. There were some severe cases, and I have instructed Colonel Stevenson to give his advice and assistance to the medical officers regarding these cases.

There is a complete absence of any septic disease.

14th November.—A depôt for convalescent soldiers has been established at Green Point; attached to which depôt is a small non-dieted hospital for 16 beds. Soldiers who are not quite fit to return to ordinary duty, but who hardly require detention in hospital, and thus retain beds urgently required, will be discharged to this depôt, where they can recruit their strength before commencing hard work again.

15th November.—Owing to East London being decided upon as a port of debarkation of some of the troops of the 3rd Division, who will probably proceed up country from that place, it has been arranged to despatch the sick transport "Trojan" to East London, and remain in the docks there as a "stationary" hospital, for the present. I am disinclined to establish any fixed hospital at this place at present, as it is not known at present whether East London will remain a military port when once the troops have left it for the front.

One sick transport, supplemented by packets for the slighter cases, should prove sufficient for the present to meet the demands of Natal.

Army Form A 6 for the reconnaissance outside Belmont, at which Lieut.-Colonel Keith Falconer and Lieutenant Flood were killed, is being forwarded by this mail.

Colonel Young, Commissioner for the Red Cross Society, has arrived.

I have, &c.,

W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer of the
Army in South Africa.

a 12269.—33. 50.—7/1900.

Army Headquarters, Cape Town,
22nd November, 1899.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter dated 15th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the general health of the force in Cape Colony continues very satisfactory : no information has yet been furnished from Natal.

16th November 1899.—Owing to some of the regiments at Orange River Station, viz., 1st Battalion Loyal North Lancashire, 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, being without medical officers, and likely to be at any moment engaged with the enemy, I ordered up Lieutenant W. Jagger from No. 1 General Hospital to Orange River (Civil Surgeon F. Symons taking over the X-ray work at Wynberg), and sent Captain J. C. Jameson to the field hospital from No. 19 Company, commanded by Major F. A. Harris, which hospital is now attached to the 3rd Brigade (Major-General Wauchope's), now at De Aar, thus freeing an officer from that unit for regimental purposes at Orange River.

I must explain that, owing to the very considerable alterations in the disposition of the various brigades forming the force in South Africa, there has consequently been a corresponding change in the detail of Royal Army Medical Corps units. Thus the 2nd, 4th, and 6th Brigades proceeded under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir C. F. Clery to Natal, taking with them the bearer companies and field hospitals originally allotted to them, but no field hospital for the divisional troops, as this unit was required for the newly-formed 9th Brigade.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief has informed you by cable of his want of another field hospital for General Clery's force.

The field hospital originally intended for the 1st Divisional troops (Major Harris's) has now been allotted to the 3rd Brigade, that of the 3rd Brigade to the 9th Brigade, and the original 2nd Divisional Field Hospital is allotted to the 1st Division. This arrangement was a military necessity depending upon the dates of arrival here ; units being urgently required at the front.

The bearer company for the 9th Brigade has, for the present at least, been formed from local volunteers.

There are several medical units still to arrive ; and nothing can be learnt of the embarkation of the Curragh Bearer Company, which was supposed to be coming out in the S.S. "Pavonia."

The 3rd Brigade Bearer Company (No. 1 Company, Royal Army Medical Corps) landed with no ambulance wagons, these having been shipped in the "Goth," which cannot arrive for some time as she has the disabled "Persia" in tow. This company was urgently required at the front.

The field hospital from York landed with no water-carts, these also being on the "Goth." This field hospital had to proceed to the front within a few hours of landing ; there were no water-carts left in Ordnance charge, and the best that could be done was to fix a couple of 60-gallon casks in two Scotch carts, put in a tap, and send these makeshifts off to the front with the hospital.

The danger of shipping portions of a unit's equipment in different vessels to the unit itself must be apparent to all.

I have appointed Major R. J. S. Simpson to the staff of No. 1 General Hospital, *vice* Major R. W. L. H. Nicholson. The latter officer is not quite up to the special degree of surgical work demanded at this most important hospital. I contemplate making still further changes in the staff of this unit, and will inform you later of any steps which it may be found necessary to take towards the thoroughly efficient working of this General Hospital, and the execution of the necessary surgical work there.

Arrangements are now being made to establish non-dieted hospitals—supplemented by luxuries from Red Cross Society—for 50 beds each at East London and Port Elizabeth. As the former place is being used as a port of disembarkation for portions of 3rd Division, the "Trojan" has been temporarily stationed there, as already notified to you.

20th November.—There are 13 officers, 238 soldiers, and 8 wounded Boer prisoners at present in No. 1 General Hospital ; and 236 soldiers in the Stationary (originally the Station) Hospital, Cape Town.

a 12899.—32. 50.—7/1900.

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As there is a divergence of instructions on Army Form A 6 and paragraph 798, Regulations for Army Medical Services, I have issued orders to all Divisional Principal Medical Officers to observe the procedure directed upon the form itself, as I consider this to be the more convenient.

Sir Wm. MacCormac and Mr. Makins, consulting surgeons, arrived in the S.S. "Briton."

I have, &c.,
W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer,
Army Corps.

Headquarters, Cape Town,
28th November 1899.

SIR,

IN continuance of my diary of the 20th November 1899, I have the honour to report:—

21*st November* 1899.—I went out to Somerset West, which is about 30 miles from here in an easterly direction, to inspect three houses which had been placed at the disposal of the army by Sir J. Sivewright, with the intention of their being used as convalescent homes for officers recovering from sickness or wounds. Two of these houses were very nice, and individually quite suitable for the purpose intended; but owing to their extremely isolated position, and the consequently deadly dulness, I reported against their being taken up as convalescent homes.

The ambulance train was inspected to-day with a view to seeing that all was ready for a start for the front at short notice. This particular train has accommodation for 94 lying-down cases. The personnel at present detailed for it consists of—

1 officer, Royal Army Medical Corps.
1 civilian surgeon.
2 nursing sisters.
1 sergeant.
2 corporals.
14 privates.

It is complete with all necessary stores, water, linen, crockery, ice, &c., &c.

22*nd November.*—Consequent upon information received to the effect that Lieutenant-General French was about to commence active operations against the enemy in the country round about Naauwpoort, I recommended that 1st Cavalry Brigade Field Hospital be moved up there from Maitland. This was done.

On the representation of Lieut.-General Clery, Commanding 2nd Division in Natal, I advised that additional help from the corps here be sent to Natal; this is to be accomplished by sending up No. 4 Stationary Hospital, at present located at Wynberg (as a temporary measure pending the arrival of the 52 reservists for No. 1 General Hospital), be shipped for Natal, and that one officer and 30 non-commissioned officers and men be detached from No. 2 General Hospital, which is on board the S.S. "Kildonan Castle" just arrived in the bay, and sent on to Natal also. The increase thus given to Natal will be—

14 reservists on their way from here.
45 officers and soldiers, No. 4 Stationary Hospital.
31 „ „ „ No. 2 General Hospital.

90 total, all ranks.

Surgeon-General Wilson and Mr. Makins proceeded to Orange River by the 9 p.m. mail train.

No. 2 ambulance train left for the front at 2 p.m. to-day.

23*rd November.*—Sanitary report received from Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, Orange River:—"General health of troops very good; "sanitary condition of camp satisfactory; water supply obtained from the "Orange River good and plentiful; rations good; ample supply of fresh meat "and vegetables."

"Three officers and 55 soldiers remaining in hospital."

Colonel Duke, with No. 2 General Hospital, arrived in the "Kildonan Castle." This unit is to proceed to Wynberg and establish itself there in marquees, with the addition of a few permanent huts. One officer and 30 non-commissioned officers and men were detached from this hospital and sent to Natal in the "Patiala," as mentioned in entry of 22nd instant.

No. 4 Stationary Hospital also proceeded to Natal in the same ship.

No. 3 Stationary Hospital left for De Aar, with the exception of one officer, one sergeant, two corporals and five privates, who are detached in order to take over No. 3 Ambulance Train and proceed with it to the front; any further personnel required being obtained from De Aar or Orange River.

a 12899.—31. 50.—7/1900.

24th *November* 1899.—The S.S. "Servia" arrived, having on board a part of No. 3 General Hospital, which is to be temporarily encamped at Green Point until required; No. 2 Stationary Hospital, which is to be temporarily attached to Woodstock Hospital until required; No. 2 Advanced Depôt Medical Stores, which is to proceed to De Aar and establish itself there; and No. 3 Advanced Depôt Medical Stores, which is to rendezvous temporarily at the Base Depôt until required.

Telegram from Major R. Cottell from Naauwpoort, stating that one corporal and two privates had been wounded while reconnoitering.

25*th November*.—No. 2 Base Depôt Medical Stores at Cape Town getting well into order; it was able to comply with a large demand made from advanced depôt at De Aar, consequent upon the severe action beyond Belmont; also large demand from No. 1 General Hospital.

The other hospital train left base at 2 p.m. for Orange River, its departure having been accelerated by news from the front.

26*th November*.—The hospital train from Orange River arrived at Wynberg at 6.30 a.m. with 102 sick and wounded. There were three deaths *en route*:—

2nd Lieut. A. C. Burton (head), 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards.

No. 5536, Private Schultz, 3rd Grenadier Guards; gunshot, abdomen.

No. 8703, Private Lynn, 1st Scots Guards; gunshot, neck.

In response to a telegram from the Surgeon-General at Orange River, orders were at once issued to General Officer Commanding of Lines of Communication to despatch train again to Orange River without delay.

Telegraphed to Wynberg, saying No. 2 General Hospital must be made ready for reception of wounded in a few days.

The "Idaho" arrived with 2nd Cavalry Brigade Bearer Company on board. This unit is to proceed to Naauwpoort this evening to act under Lieut.-General French's orders.

Telegram received from Major Greenway, Field Hospital at Orange River, to the effect that 15 British and 30 wounded Boer prisoners had been admitted there on 24th. British progressing favourably; Boer Trooper Erasmus died 25th; remainder doing well.

27*th November*.—General Clery cabled from Natal that he was in want of more army nursing sisters. Those of No. 3 General Hospital being in the "Pembroke Castle" in the Bay, I advised the Chief of the Staff to order six of these and one female servant to proceed to Natal in this vessel. Orders were issued accordingly. The remainder of the nurses for No. 3 will rendezvous at Wynberg until wanted by their unit. Colonel Stevenson, Principal Medical Officer of Communications, thoroughly examined all the wounded officers, and several operations have been performed; all are doing well with the exception of Major the Honourable Dalrymple Hamilton, Scots Guards, who is seriously ill,—gunshot wound of left forearm, with great comminution of bones and exposure of muscles; the wound was septic when patient was admitted to Wynberg.

28*th November*.—Lieut.-General Gatacre, who is operating in the country beyond Queenstown, applied for a bearer company and field hospital; his medical units have all gone round with their brigades to Natal excepting the Field Hospital of the 3rd Division, which will join him as soon as it lands at East London. Seeing that the Cavalry Brigades have practically ceased to exist for the present, owing to extra Cavalry regiments having been ordered to Natal, I advised that the 1st Cavalry Brigade Bearer Company should be utilised for this service, at least for the present.

The Field Hospital of No. 10 Company and Bearer Company of No. 16 Company, both attached to the 5th Brigade, have been ordered to Natal with their brigade, they are leaving in the s.s. "Bavarian."

29*th November*.—Mr. F. Treeves and two nurses reported their arrival, and received orders to proceed to Natal for duty with the forces there.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. D. Stevenson,
Colonel, R.A.M.C.
For Principal Medical Officer, Army Corps, absent on duty.

Headquarters, Cape Town,
6th December 1899.

SIR,

IN continuance of my diary of the 29th November, I have the honour to report:—

1st December 1899.—Colonel Williamson, New South Wales Medical Service, reported himself to-day, ex S.S. "Kent," for service with the army; he is accompanied by a half Bearer Company, and half Field Hospital.

2nd December.—The Commander-in-Chief wired from Natal asking for another field hospital to be sent there at once. I advised the Chief of the Staff to send the Corps Troops Field Hospital, which is landing to-day from the "Arawa," substituting the New South Wales Medical Contingent for it.

This Corps Troops Field Hospital was deficient of a quartermaster, and so Quartermaster and Honorary Lieutenant Sellex, of Base Depôt Medical Stores, was ordered to report himself to Officer Commanding of the unit, being relieved of his duties in the stores by Quartermaster and Honorary Captain Kennedy.

3rd December.—Following cable received last night from the Director-General:—

"Rontgen Ray apparatus, as follows, have been despatched Cape Town: three sets in 'British Princess' 16th November, one set in 'Guelph' 18th; also to Durban two sets in 'Norham Castle' 25th November. The apparatus which came out in the 'Trojan,' and which was originally intended for No. 2 General Hospital, was sent on to Natal, as the Principal Medical Officer there had wired to the effect that both sets that were in Natal were shut up in Ladysmith, and were, therefore, unavailable for the force elsewhere than in the beleaguered town."

Report received of the death of No. 6594, Sergeant J. Harrison, Corps Troops Field Hospital, at sea in S.S. "Pindari" on 3rd November.

Visited Wynberg this afternoon; the 600 beds of No. 1 General Hospital are now practically all full. No. 2 General Hospital is progressing; many marquees have been erected, cookhouse and latrines built by Royal Engineers, also a commodious surgery and stores.

One hundred patients from the front have already been admitted. Four Canadian nursing sisters, who arrived with the contingent from that colony, are now employed at Wynberg.

4th December.—Owing to the large number of wounded received from the front, and to the likelihood of many more from impending actions with the enemy, I advised that steps be immediately taken to establish a third general hospital in the vicinity of Cape Town.

An admirable site has been secured about one mile from Rondebosch Station, and steps are now being taken to have huts for stores, kitchens, latrines, wash-houses, &c., erected there; the rest of the hospital will be in marquees and tents.

The "Ismore," which was wrecked off the coast some few days ago, had on board No. 9 Company, Bearer Company, and it is feared that most, if not all, the equipment of the unit has been lost.

5th December.—The distribution of the units of the Royal Army Medical Corps in South Africa at the present time is as follows:—

No. 12 Company, Bearer Company, Major North, Naauwpoort.
" 18 " " " Moberly, 1st Brigade, Modder River.
" 1 " " " Hanley, 3rd Brigade, Modder River.
" 2 " " " Reckitt, 2nd Brigade, Natal.
" 16 " " " Townsend, 5th Brigade, Natal.
" 14 " " " Milward, 4th Brigade, Natal.
" 9 " " " Cottell, wrecked in "Ismore."
" 17 " " " Haywood, 6th Brigade, Natal.

a 12899.—30. 50.—7/1900.

No. 18 Company, Field Hospital, Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Magill, 1st Brigade, Modder River.

Depôt Field Hospital, Major Culling, 2nd Brigade, Natal.

No. 6 Company, Field Hospital, Major Hamilton, 2nd Cavalry Brigade, Maitland.

„ 19 „ „ „ Harris, 3rd Brigade, Modder River.

„ 14 „ „ „ Goggin, 4th Brigade, Natal.

„ 8 „ „ „ Robinson, 9th Brigade, Modder River.

„ 9 „ „ „ Irvine, Naauwpoort.

„ 11 „ „ „ Younge, 5th Brigade, Natal.

„ 7 „ „ „ Lilly, 3rd Division, Queenstown.

„ 11 „ „ „ Thiele, 6th Brigade, Natal.

„ 5 „ „ „ Baird, Natal.

„ 3 „ „ „ Murray, 1st Division, Modder River.

„ 1 Stationary Hospital, Natal.

„ 2 „ „ Woodstock, part of staff at Orange River.

„ 3 „ „ De Aar.

„ 4 „ „ Natal.

„ 1 General Hospital, Wynberg.

No. 2 General Hospital, Wynberg, but one officer and 30 non-commissioned officers and men at Natal must be replaced here.

No. 3 General Hospital preparing to establish themselves at Rondebosch, but have six nursing sisters sent to Natal, 11 civil surgeons doing duty on lines of communication. Two officers, one warrant officer, and 37 non-commissioned officers and men at De Aar. These must be replaced as soon as possible.

No. 4 General Hospital, not landed.

„ 1 Advance Depôt, Natal.

„ 2 „ „ De Aar.

„ 3 „ „ waiting orders.

„ 1 Base Depot, Natal.

„ 2 „ Cape Town.

„ 1 Hospital Train, Natal.

„ 2 „ „ Cape Colony.

„ 3 „ „ „ „

Sick Transport "Trojan" at Port Elizabeth.

„ „ "Spartan" at Durban.

It is absolutely necessary to have more personnel, independently of any units that may be coming out.

I have, therefore, urged the Chief of the Staff to cable for more.

I have, &c.,

W. G. A. Bedford,

Major, R.A.M.C.,

For Principal Medical Officer,

Army Corps,

Absent at Orange River.

Sir, Cape Town, 13th December 1899.

In continuance of my diary of the 5th December, I have the honour to report:—

6th December 1899.—Inspected the New South Wales Medical Staff Corps at Green Point.

Surgeon-General Wilson returned from Orange River this evening, made preliminary arrangements for the establishment of No. 3 General Hospital at Rondebosch.

7th December.—Two non-commissioned officers and 10 privates, No. 4 General Hospital, ordered to De Aar for temporary duty.

The Chief of the Staff yesterday wired to the War Office for—

10 Officers R.A.M.C.,
20 Civil Surgeons,
20 Nursing Sisters,
50 Non-Commissioned Officers and Men,
2 Buglers,

to be sent out at once independently of any unit that may be coming out.

The Surgeon-General inspected the Sanatorium at Claremont with a view to this institution being utilised as an officers' hospital.

8th December.—Represented to Chief of the Staff, that if a sixth division comes out, it will be necessary to have another Stationary and another General Hospital.

Chief of Staff wired to War Office to this effect.

It was arranged that No. 2 Stationary Hospital that has been awaiting orders at Woodstock, should now proceed to East London and establish itself there.

9th December.—The Surgeon-General inspected No. 1 and 2 General Hospital this afternoon, and found everything very satisfactory. There are several most remarkable cases of perforating wounds of the skull, which present few, if any, symptoms of cerebral injury.

The Superintendent of the nursing sisters represented that her staff was insufficient for the heavy duties by day and night, and that she required four more sisters to carry out the work efficiently, without risk of the sisters breaking down.

It is contemplated to give some, at least, of these from those arriving for No. 4 General Hospital, the latter being replaced from the extra ones cabled for from England on 7th instant.

3rd Division.

27th November.—The headquarters of this division and greater part of the troops moved from Queenstown to Putters Kraal Camp.

28th November.—G.O.C. 3rd Division telegraphed to C.S.O., saying that a bearer company and field hospital were urgently required (No. 7 Company, Field Hospital detailed to 3rd Divisional troops left here for East London on 29th November en route to join General Gatacre), unfortunately the Bearer Company (No. 9 Company) originally detailed to the 1st Cavalry Brigade, was wrecked in the "Ismore" and all equipment lost; this will be replaced by the equipment being sent out in the "Doune Castle" originally intended for the Bearer Company of the 10th Brigade, which it had been proposed to raise here.

Health of troops, good. No fresh admissions for enteric fever. One death from this disease, in the case of a soldier of the Army Service Corps, occurred at Queenstown in the Civil Hospital, the disease had been contracted in East London.

Sanitary condition of camp. The water supply is being increased by boring, one tube gives 5,000 gallons per day, arrangements are being made not only for the collection and distribution of water in the river being improved, but also for making other borings.

The latrines are well looked after and are in a satisfactory condition.

(Signed) J. Dallas Edge,
Lieut.-Colonel.

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10*th December.*—Superintendent Cole and eight nursing sisters of No. 4 General Hospital arrived from England.

S.S. "Goth" arrived with Colonel Clery and some of the Staff of No. 4 General Hospital.

News reached headquarters of a serious reverse to General Gatacre's force in the vicinity of Sterkstroom; he has fallen back upon Queenstown.

11*th December.*—Steps were taken to-day to raise another company of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps to act as stretcher bearers; and permission was obtained to do this.

The establishing of No. 3 General Hospital at Rondebosch is being actively pushed on; the Royal Engineers are erecting wooden and zinc buildings for storehouses, surgery, operating room, Rontgen ray room, latrines, and wash-houses; a house for the sisters has been secured in the close vicinity of the camp.

No. 2 Stationary Hospital sailed to-day for East London.

12*th December.*—Telegram received from Principal Medical Officer, 3rd Division, dated from Queenstown last evening, "Three officers and nine "men, Royal Army Medical Corps, were taken prisoners. Major Lilly, "Lieutenant Nickerson, and six men were to be sent for to-day, but have not "yet heard whether they have arrived at Molteno. I return to Sterkstroom "to-morrow after sending wounded fit to travel to Trojan."

Telegram received from Principal Medical Officer, Orange River (Lieut. Colonel Donovan), at 4.15 p.m.

"268 wounded arrived from Modder River, including 26 officers, No. 4463 Sergeant Carpenter, 12th Lancers; and 4864, Sergeant W. E. Smith, Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders died on the way."

I inspected No. 3 General Hospital at Rondebosch this evening, and found the progress made most satisfactory in every way. Temporary arrangements had been made in marquees—pending the erection of wooden huts by the Royal Engineers—for surgery, operating room, stores, &c. Many ward-marquees were pitched and equipped; and patients could now be admitted if necessary. The site is a beautiful one, about one mile from Rondebosch Station; the water train is being carried right into the camp.

24*th November.*—The Surgeon-General arrived at De Aar:—

At 6 a.m. I commenced my inspection. I first visited the school house, which has been converted into a hospital; there is accommodation here for 40 beds. It was fully occupied at the time of my visit. The Royal Engineers were erecting other huts for hospital purposes; they will afford accommodation for about 38 more, and will include operating room and X Ray room. The Red Cross supplied capital iron cots. I issued orders for the officer in charge to apply for cots for the other buildings which are in process of erection. There are also some other buildings situated some distance away from the former; the Railway Hospital and Nurses Home are being used as an Officers' Hospital; the Advanced Depôt Medical Stores is also here.

De Aar is a most objectionable place on account of the dust and flies; but from a strategic point of view is most important. Mild forms of dysentery and diarrhœa are somewhat prevalent. I left De Aar the same day and proceeded to Orange River Station. The medical arrangements here are as follows:—Half a Field Hospital which was mobilised locally before the Army Corps arrived, under Major Birch. This hospital was well cared for.

There was another locally mobilised Field Hospital under Major Greenway, and also the Field Hospital of the 1st Division under Major Murray.

The camp at Orange River Station is entrenched, and will be difficult to keep in a satisfactory sanitary condition if occupied for very long.

Diarrhœa and dysentery of a mild type are somewhat prevalent.

During my stay at Orange River large numbers of wounded arrived from Modder River; most of them Mr. Makins and I examined ourselves, and many of them we dressed. The work of some of the medical officers—especially those of the Cape Volunteer Medical Staff Corps—was not by any means satisfactory. The more serious cases were gradually passed down to the Base Hospitals at Wynberg by the hospital trains.

29*th November,*—Still at Orange River Station. Having received no news from the front, and being uneasy about the actual state of affairs, I wired

twice to Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, at Modder River, but received no reply. In the meanwhile I made all arrangements for the reception of a large number of wounded. Convalescents were discharged down to De Aar, and by pitching extra marquees and tents I made accommodation altogether for about 430 cases.

Subsequently about 400 wounded arrived by train, everything that was possible was done for them.

30th November.—Mr. Makins and I spent the whole day and night attending to the wounded. Evacuation to the base by means of the hospital trains is being carried out as rapidly as possible.

2nd December.—I returned to De Aar and visited the hospital again, and examined the sick and wounded. On the same day I proceeded to Naauwpoort; this place is not nearly so dusty as De Aar, and it may prove an advantageous place to establish a large hospital.

3rd December.—I returned to Orange River Station and arranged for further evacuations to De Aar and the base.

4th December.—Lieut.-Colonel Donovan, Principal Medical Officer, Cavalry Division, arrived here to take charge of the station, I had wired to Major Bedford at Army Headquarters, to try and arrange to send up a senior officer to relieve me here, and enable me to return to headquarters where my presence was required. As the Cavalry Division had been practically dispersed owing to the exigencies of the Campaign, it was arranged to send Lieut.-Colonel Donovan here, and this was put into effect forthwith. Having explained everything to Lieut.-Colonel Donovan, I started for Cape Town on 5th December and arrived there the next day.

I am, &c.,
W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer,
Army Corps.

Army Headquarters,
South Africa,
13th December 1899.

Cape Town,
19th December 1899.

Sir,

In continuance of my diary of the 12th December, I have the honour to report:—

13*th December* 1899.—The mail arrived bringing Lieutenant-General Sir C. Warren, Commanding 5th Division, and his staff.

Lieutenant-Colonel Allin, Principal Medical Officer, 5th Division, and Major Davis, Secretary, reported themselves.

I visited Wynberg to-day, accompanied by Colonel Stevenson. I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Anthonisz to increase the number of officers' beds by placing the men of the Royal Army Medical Corps in tents, and also to appropriate two more wards for the use of officers; altogether this will now afford accommodation for 68 sick or wounded officers; it has also been arranged that convalescent officers shall be transferred to the Sanitarium at Claremont, which is an institution fitted with every modern convenience.

14*th December*.—I called on Miss Page, the lady who came out to superintend Sir J. Sivewright's Convalescent Home; she said she had a staff of nurses, a cook, and other servants. The lady opened the interview, and I gathered from what she said, that she was aware that I had reported unfavourably on the proposed Sanitarium. I told her that "I had visited the place, and that only Oakwood, at present under repair, and Lawrenceford could be utilised." I also told her that Sir J. Sivewright's gift had been accepted by the Secretary of State, and we must do the best we could to make the place useful, and that if she could go with her staff, that I would shortly send her some convalescent officers. She seemed anxious to get some badly wounded to nurse. This of course is impossible, as these must remain at Wynberg with the large staff of medical officers.

I visited the S.S. "Urania," about to proceed to England with invalids; I found all arrangements for the accommodation of sick and wounded excellent. The invalids are all provided with cabin accommodation; one civil surgeon detached from No. 4 General Hospital, together with the ship's surgeon, will be in charge of the invalids. There are also three civil nurses.

15*th December*.—Colonel Stevenson who has been all the morning at Wynberg, reports all doing well, generally. He said that Colonel Byron, a wounded officer of the South Australian Artillery, remarked to him, "The kindness and attention bestowed by your fellows could only be exceeded by their heroism on the field itself."

Miss Page called at my office; she wished to throw over Oakwood and Lawrenceford, if I would find her other work. I replied that we were ordered to use Sir J. Sivewright's place, and that we must try it.

16*th December*.—I called upon General Sir F. Walker, General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication, this afternoon by appointment. He introduced the subject of sick and wounded officers by saying that many influential people, principally ladies, were hurt and aggrieved in being excluded from the hospital; that they desired to help in the work, but now they talked and found fault with the arrangements. He said that he did not believe the reports he heard, but he feared they would injure us, and he advocated a compromise. General Walker said that he was assured of the splendid work done in the hospitals, but he feared the talk and tattle of outsiders.

17*th December*.—Telegram received from Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, Modder River, that Major C. H. Burtchaell had been released by the enemy; this officer had been detained owing to his having been found with a revolver on his person while in the enemy's trenches, searching for wounded under a flag of truce.

18*th December*.—During the week 100 men have been enlisted into the new Volunteer Bearer Company, and these are now under training at Woodstock Hospital. Surgeon-Colonel Hartley, V.C., has been recalled from Modder River to take command.

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19th December.—Sir William MacCormac telegraphed from Pietermaritzburg. "The Field Hospital, Stationary Hospitals, Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and Hospital trains, and one and all did splendid work, Chievely, on December 15th, 16th, and 17th."

Principal Medical Officer, Pietermaritzburg, telegraphs for—

10 Officers.
100 Non-Commissioned Officers and men.
2 X-Ray apparatus.
1 Stationary Hospital complete.

All wounded doing well and accommodated at Estcourt, Maritzburg, and hospital ships.

The battlefield was cleared day of battle, wounded evacuated in 36 hours from front.

Six trains used, front clear of wounded, about 1,000 in hospital at Maritzburg; Estcourt, 100; "Spartan" and "Lismore Castle," 500.

In consultation with Chief of Staff it was arranged to despatch 2 officers and 30 Non-Commissioned Officers and men of No. 4 General Hospital to Natal as soon as possible; more than this cannot be spared. There is no Stationary Hospital available.

Orders issued to General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication accordingly. Orders also issued for the New South Wales Medical Contingent to proceed to Orange River. They will thus be with the Colonial Contingent.

I have, &c.,
W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer.

Cape Town,
27th December 1899.

Sir,

In continuance of my diary of the 20th December, I have the honour to report:—

20*th December* 1899.—Orders issued for the two sisters of the Army Nursing Reserve to be transferred from the Convalescent House at Somerset West (Sir J. Sivewright's place) to No. 1 General Hospital; also one sister of the same service now on the mail steamer, who was originally intended for Sir J. Sivewright's house, to also proceed to No. 1 General Hospital, as the small amount of work at Somerset West does not justify me in keeping these ladies there; on their arrival at No. 1 General Hospital, the four Canadian nursing sisters are to proceed from No. 1 to No. 3 General Hospital, Rondebosch, to complete numbers there.

21*st December*.—Telegram received from the "Spartan":—

"Sail, daylight (to-day), with 125 sick and wounded; officers, 13, of which 12 are wounded; 112 men, of which 77 are wounded; lying-down cases for train, approximately 6 officers and 60 men."

22*nd December*.—370 patients in hospital at Orange River.

Orders issued for the remainder of No. 4 General Hospital to proceed from Green Point to De Aar, and establish itself there as a temporary measure.

Cabled to Director-General, Army Medical Service, asking if the stationary and general hospital asked for in cable of 8th December had been sanctioned.

23*rd December*.—174 sick at Modder River.

Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Hartly, V.C., Cape Volunteer Medical Service Corps, reported his arrival here from Modder River, he having come down to take command of the new Volunteer Medical Service Corps Bearer Company.

Inspected the officers' hospital at Wynberg and found all satisfactory; the sick officers had no complaints.

Wired Superintending Sister Gray, Army Nursing Service, to come in from Somerset West, for the purpose of taking over duty at Claremont Convalescent Establishment for Officers.

24*th December*.—The officers' accommodation at Wynberg has been still further extended, and beds are now available for 95, leaving 536 for soldiers; this has been accomplished by converting wards for soldiers into officers' wards, in the permanent Station Hospital, which forms the upper portion of the present General Hospital. S.S. "Spartan" arrived from Durban.

25*th December*.—Sir Redvers Buller wired from Pietermaritzburg to General, Cape Town, saying he must have a General Hospital at once. Last week I suggested to Colonel Wynne, Chief of the Staff, to send on No. 4 General Hospital. He said it would not be sound, and explained why. Since then "the plan" must have changed, and a General Hospital is now considered necessary. It had been settled that No. 4 should proceed to De Aar, and a part of the equipment had actually been placed on the railway trucks, but owing to General Buller's order the destination of this unit has been changed, and it is now to go to Natal.

26*th December*.—Superintendent Gray, Army Nursing Service, is now out at Claremont acting there, and it is trusted that she will be able to manage the arrangements for the convalescent officers. The question as to the possibility of using Somerset West as a convalescent home for soldiers as well as for officers is now under the consideration of the General Officer Commanding.

I have, &c.,
W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer,
South African Field Force.

Headquarters, Cape Town,
27th December 1899.

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a 12899.—27. 50.—7/1900.

Cape Town,
2nd January 1900.

SIR,

IN continuance of my diary of the 26th December 1899, I have the honour to report :—

27*th December* 1899.—It was arranged with General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication to send 10 privates of the Cape Volunteer Medical Staff Corps to each of the four Bearer Companies in this Colony; and to take 10 privates, Royal Army Medical Corps, from these units for the purpose of using them as nursing orderlies in the hospitals. The volunteers will do quite well to act as bearers in the field.

Arranged with General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication for 2nd Cavalry Brigade Field Hospital (No. 6 Company) to proceed from Maitland Camp to Naauwpoort to join Lieutenant-General French's command. This step was rendered necessary owing to the proximity of the enemy, and the consequent likelihood of an early engagement. Arrangements will be made by Principal Medical Officer, Base, for a small detention hospital to be established at Maitland to take the place of the field hospital. At present there are 740 all ranks at this camp, which is the Base Depôt of the mounted troops in this command.

28*th December*.—Quartermaster and Honorary Lieutenant Talbot, recently promoted from Bearer Company, 1st Brigade, reported himself to-day; he had just come down from the Modder River, and is on his way to join the 3rd Divisional Field Hospital (No. 7 Company) under General Gatacre at Sterkstroom. Quartermaster Green, who was also recently promoted, has been transferred from the 3rd Brigade Bearer Company to No. 3 Stationary Hospital at De Aar, vice Quartermaster Painton, transferred to No. 4 General Hospital, now proceeding to Natal.

Inspected No. 3 General Hospital at Rondebosch and found all correct, as two officers of this unit, Major Knaggs and Lieutenant Ensor, who came out before the headquarters of it arrived, had to be sent to Orange River, where assistance was urgently required, thus leaving No. 3 General Hospital short of two officers. I appointed Major Nichol and Captain Withers in their place. These two officers had come out with the equipment, but no further personnel, of No. 17 (Special) Bearer Company; but this unit could not be organised owing to lack of personnel, and its equipment was transferred to the Colchester Bearer Company (1st Cavalry Brigade) owing to that unit's equipment having been lost in the "Ismore."

30*th December*.—The "Majestic" arrived with the staff of the "Portland" Hospital. This hospital is to be attached to No. 3 General Hospital at Rondebosch.

Inspected officers' wards in No. 1 General Hospital. I went round every ward, and saw the cases with the medical officers. I consider everything satisfactory.

1*st January* 1900.—2nd Cavalry Brigade Field Hospital (No. 6 Company, under Major Hamilton) arrived at Naauwpoort from Maitland Camp to join Lieutenant-General French's command.

I have, &c.,
W. D. WILSON,
Surgeon-General, Principal Medical Officer, Army.

3*rd January* 1900.—Surgeon-General Wilson left Cape Town last night by the hospital train for the purpose of inspecting De Aar, Orange River, Modder River, and Naauwpoort.

The following is a translation of a cablegram despatched to you yesterday :—

"Send several sets Volkman's spoons, lion forceps, Hayedun's needles and holders, Hofman's gouge chisels, bone drills and bits, scalpels, Hodgin's thigh

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splints in sizes, Schimmelbusch's sterilizers, Stromeyer's cushions, Sequestrum forceps, Cripp's irrigators on stands, glass instrument trays on wheels, and dishes."

The above are urgently required in connection with the large number of operations being daily performed in the general hospitals. Some of these instruments and appliances have been purchased locally, but the prices here are very high, and the other general hospitals coming out will likewise require such articles.

The latest information to hand tells of 14 cases of enteric fever at Modder River. A small hut hospital for 30 beds is now being established and equipped there for the special treatment of these cases; this will obviate the necessity to move them, and will also be confining these infective cases to a limited area instead of scattering them down the line of communication.

Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, has been warned to take every precaution, and to apply for ample supplies of disinfecting materials.

I am, &c.,
W. G. A. Bedford,
Major, Secretary, Principal Medical Officer,
Army Corps, in charge of Office.

Army Headquarters,
3rd February 1900.

Cape Town,
10th January 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of diary from the 2nd inst.

4th January 1900.—Received telegram from the Surgeon-General at Naauwpoort, directing me to cause Lieut.-Colonel Donovan and one civil surgeon to be sent to Naauwpoort at once. I took immediate steps to effect this, and also expedited despatch of the 10 privates from bearer companies to the several hospitals arranged.

Visited Rondebosch and found that the staff of the Portland Hospital were getting well on with their camp: many of the tents were pitched, and the stores and equipment were being unpacked.

Applied to Commander Royal Engineers, Lines of Communication, to have erected, for the Portland Hospital, some portable wood and zinc hutments for surgery, pack and linen store, kitchen and latrines.

5th January.—Professor Ogston, Surgeon to the Queen, called to-day with a letter from General Walker to the effect that as the Queen had so desired it, every facility was to be afforded Mr. Ogston to visit the medical establishments of the Army. Issued him a warrant to proceed to Modder River, and gave him letters to Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, Modder River, and to the Senior Medical Officers, Orange River and De Aar.

Army Form A 28 for 1st January 1900 shows 6 officers and 188 soldiers in hospital at Modder River, 14 cases of enteric fever, and 16 of dysentery.

6th January.—Wired to Principal Medical Officer, 3rd Division, Sterkstroom, telling him that General Officer Commanding approved of a non-dieted hospital for 25 beds being established in the schoolhouse there; and directing that requisitions be at once sent in to the Ordnance Department at East London for the necessary equipment.

I received a telegram last evening from the Surgeon-General at Rensburg to the effect that the 1st Cavalry Brigade Bearer Company was required up there with Lieut.-General French's force. I then warned this unit to hold itself in readiness to proceed up country, and submitted application to General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication to order it up from Green Point, where it is waiting, to Naauwpoort for General French's disposal.

Received intelligence from Natal that Nursing Sister M. C. Rose died of dysentery at Durban on 3rd January.

7th January.—No. 2 Hospital Train left Woodstock for De Aar at 2 p.m. to-day.

8th January.—Surgeon-General Wilson returned from Rensburg this morning.

Issued orders for Principal Medical Officer, Base, to send to Sterkstroom, without delay, for the non-dieted hospital in the schoolhouse there:—

1 pair of Medical Panniers.
1 pair Surgical Panniers.
1 Field Fracture Box.
2 Antiseptic Cases.

2nd January.—Left Capetown 7 p.m. 2nd January 1900 in No. 3 Hospital Train, Major Russell, Royal Army Medical Corps, in charge. At first I had intended to leave the hospital train at De Aar, but on arriving at last-named place at 7.30 p.m., 3rd January, I decided it was of more importance to go to Arundel and Rensburg, where Lieutenant-General French's Division was operating.

Leaving De Aar at 8 p.m. we arrived at midnight at Naauwpoort, where we remained till 9.45 a.m., 4th inst. At 6 a.m. I paid a surprise visit to No. 6 Field Hospital, 2nd Cavalry Brigade, stationed for the present at Naauwpoort. I found the hospital camp well placed on a slope at western end of the lines. The tents were well pitched and the ground trenched to prevent the tents being flooded in case of heavy rain.

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I carefully examined the sick, 31 in tents; all were mild cases of diarrhœa, dysentery, or muscular rheumatism. There were no wounded. The rations were good and cooked to suit each individual case. Extras, such as milk, &c., were also issued. I then visited a cottage recently taken over for more serious cases. It contained four small rooms and a kitchen. There were 11 cases under treatment, and one had symptoms of enteric fever. I directed that this man be isolated at once and treated as enteric. At present Naauwpoort is used as the base to the troops operating about Colesberg.

No. 6 Field Hospital is complete in every respect with its transport and native drivers, but it has not its complement of Army Service Corps. If required the hospital can be moved to the front even without its Army Service Corps.

While at Naauwpoort I wired for Lieut.-Colonel Donovan, Principal Medical Officer, Cavalry Division, who has been lately employed at Orange River receiving sick and wounded from 1st Division. Lieutenant-Colonel Donovan has done good service at Orange River, while he was detached from the cavalry till this division could take the field.

I am making arrangements to keep up a hospital at Naauwpoort in the event of No. 6 Field Hospital being moved on.

While waiting at Naauwpoort Station I saw two regiments entrained to re-inforce General French. The men were the picture of health and were in best of spirits.

At 9.45 a.m., 4th instant, the hospital train left for Arundel and arrived there 11.30 a.m. The country is very hilly and is most suitable for Boer warfare. There is a considerable amount of grass and the cattle on the farms are in better condition than those down south.

Just as our train got into Arundel another train arrived from Rensburg with 13 sick and wounded. All were slight with the exception of one wounded marked "severe." I examined him carefully; the bullet passed transversely across back of neck and must have passed between spinal processes four and five cervical. The wounds of entrance and exit were dry and practically healed by 1st intention. The man, beyond a stiffness of neck, had no symptoms.

A portion of 1st Cavalry Brigade Field Hospital (eight tents) had been left at Arundel when the troops moved on to Rensburg. Out of these eight tents I selected nine slight medical and surgical cases and placed them in the ordinary train with the 13 cases from the front. All when supplied with milk and beef tea were sent to Naauwpoort for treatment. The remaining more severe cases (17 wounded) were removed from the tents and placed in the train, thus allowing the portion of the field hospital left behind rejoining its other portion at Rensburg same evening.

Among the 17 wounded there were three very severe penetrating wounds of chest. All most likely will recover.

5th, at 10 a.m., Lieut.-Colonel Donovan arrived from Orange River and No. 3 Hospital Train left for Rensburg, where we arrived about 11 a.m. Here we received two wounded officers and 15 men just brought in from the front.

The Boer position could be seen, or at least, the hills where they are hidden, about 4½ miles to our front. The country is very hilly with wide open plains. Colesberg was away to our left in a hollow, and is quite commanded by hills. I understand Colesberg to be about eight miles distance from Rensburg.

Having wired for No. 2 Train to come up from Cape Town, and leaving full instructions to Lieut.-Colonel Donovan, I left at 3 p.m. for Naauwpoort and De Aar.

6th January.—Inspected No. 3 Stationary Hospital at De Aar and found everything satisfactory.

De Aar is not a nice place for treating sick and wounded, but its position on the railway forces me to have there many beds.

It is simply a railway junction and only railway officials live there during peace. It is on the karoo and it is devoid of trees and grass. It has been extensively used as a camp during last three months and the ground is one vast dust heap, and the wind keeps this dust for ever on the move.

The heat in the day is very great, once about seven days ago the maximum thermometer registered 108° F. in the shade and on the night following the minimum fell to 40° F. The climate is most varied even at this season. Everyone seems in good health though worried all day by dust, heat, and flies.

The hospital consists of a solid building called the railway schoolhouse, 40 sick and woonded can be accommodated here. There are also two new wooden buildings capable of holding 80 more, or a total of 120. Tents are pitched as required.

On account of De Aar being in such a commanding position I find it necessary to raise the accommodation, and as tents being unsuitable on account of the high wind and dust I have obtained sanction for hut accommodation for 200 more. I also propose to hut four nursing sisters. There are at present 172 non-commissioned officers and men treated in hospital; of these eight are enteric, four of which are said to come from the Modder River.

The officers are treated in a building the property of the railway, called the Nurses' Home, five are under treatment, one of these only is serious, namely, Captain Mackenzie of De Aar Remount Depôt, suffering from enteric following a visit to the Modder River.

On account of the growing importance of De Aar junction, and on account of enteric which has undoubtedly set in at Modder River, I have decided to send four nursing sisters to the stationary hospital. As there is no accommodation beyond tents I have asked the engineers to erect a small wooden building for nurses' use.

Having finished my inspection at De Aar, and having been directed to be present on Wednesday at Lord Robert's arrival, I left by mail train 4 a.m., 7th inst., and arrived at Cape Town 7 a.m., 8th inst.

8th January.—Principal Medical Officer, 3rd Division, requested authority to engage a trained nurse at the 25-bed hospital being established in the schoolhouse at Sterkstroom. I approved of this at 6s. per diem on the understanding that the nurse was formally certificated.

Major A. H. Morgan, D.S.O. in charge of the Hospital Ship "Princess of Wales," reported his arrival here to-day. He states that the condition of the ship is most unsatisfactory in many ways. Numerous mishaps, some not unattended with serious danger, occurred during the voyage out. A naval examination of the ship will be held, and a report rendered in due course. At present the vessel is quite unfit to proceed to Natal, where her services are required, and it will be a considerable time before she is fit to proceed to sea.

Orders issued to-day for Lieutenant G. M. Goldsmith to proceed from No. 2 General Hospital at Wynberg to Modder River to relieve Major H. L. Battersby in medical charge of Brigade Division, Royal Field Artillery, with Lieut.-General Lord Methuen's Division. (Lieutenant Goldsmith was originally in No. 19 Company Field Hospital, but was replaced in that by Captain Jameson.) Major Battersby is to assume the duties of Senior Medical Officer at Orange River Station.

I have, &c.,
W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer,
Army in South Africa.

Army Headquarters,
Cape Town,
17th January 1900.

SIR,

IN continuance of my letter dated 10th instant, I have the honour to inform you that Field-Marshal Lord Roberts landed on the 10th instant from the "Dunottar Castle" and assumed command of the forces in South Africa.

10th January 1900.—In consequence of an urgent application from Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, at Modder River, I ordered Captain C. B. Lawson from No. 3 Stationary Hospital, De Aar, up to the 1st Division, relieving him by a civil surgeon from Orange River, a second civil surgeon from Orange River was ordered to a field hospital in the 1st Division to set free an officer Royal Army Medical Corps for duty with a regimental unit; there having been two casualties in the 1st Division, Lieutenant Douglas, wounded in action, Jagger, enteric fever, and a fresh body of Royal Engineers formed there, which necessitated an additional medical officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Gubbins, Principal Medical Officer, 6th Division, arrived in the "Dunottar Castle" and reported himself here.

11th January.—I made a close inspection of all the sick officers in No. 1 General Hospital, Wynberg, and found everything satisfactory.

12th January.—I proceeded to the officers' convalescent house at Claremont with the Field-Marshal Commanding, and then went on to the general hospitals at Wynberg with him. We found everything satisfactory.

13th January.—Major C. W. Allport, one non-commissioned officer, and three privates were ordered by telegram to proceed from No. 2 Stationary Hospital, East London, to Port Elizabeth for duty at the hospital there, which up to now has been in charge of a civil surgeon with a small subordinate staff, but as troops are now landing there in some considerable numbers it was considered advisable to increase the staff and to have a military medical officer in charge. There are beds equipped for 64 sick.

I inspected the Red Cross Hospital Ship "Princess of Wales." As her fixtures and arrangements are well known to you I will not describe them.

I regret that this vessel arrived here with many defects in her working parts, which have necessitated her being taken in hand by the shipwrights, electricians, and others; and it will be some time before she is fit for actual use.

The stores presented by the French Red Cross Society have been landed; one hospital set has been sent up to Naauwpoort and the other set is being held in reserve here.

Owing to the great value of the Röntgen Ray expert, Mr. Catlin, at No. 1 General Hospital, and to the amount of labour falling to him, thus rendering it impossible for him to execute work at any of the other hospitals, I decided to apply to you by cable for four more, *i.e.*, one for each of the other general hospitals.

14th January.—Surgeon-General Wilson proceeded to Modder River Camp on inspection duty, the increasing numbers of enteric fever cases at this station giving rise to some anxiety. There are now 30 cases under treatment in the 1st Division.

16th January.—Owing to the very large expenditure of certain pills and tablets, and the consequent repeated requisitions from the front for these articles, I despatched to you the following cablegram in code:—

"Send at once pills 'No. 8,' 25,000; 'No. 9,' 50,000; 'No. 11,' 25,000; 'No. 12,' 5,000. Tablets, 'No. 4,' 10,000; 'No. 6,' 4,000; 'No. 7,' 4,000. Carbonate of ammonium, 3 grains, 10,000; Ipecacuanha, 5 grains, 10,000; bicarbonate of potash, 10 grains, 10,000; bicarbonate of sodium, 10 grains, 10,000; salicylate of sodium, 5 grains, 10,000; peptonizing powders, boxes, 100."

A 12899.—24. 50.—7/1900.

17th *January*.—Quartermaster and Honorary Lieutenant B. E. Essex, promoted from 1st Cavalry Brigade, Bearer Company, ordered to Naauwpoort for duty with one of the field hospitals of 6th Division.

I have, &c.,
W. G. A. Bedford,
Major, Royal Army Medical Corps,
For Principal Medical Officer, Field Force,
Absent at Modder River.

Cape Town,
24th January 1900.

Sir,

In continuation of my diary I have the honour to report :—

Thursday, 18*th January* 1900.—Consequent on a telegram received from the Surgeon-General at Modder River, I issued instructions for four nursing sisters from the Base Hospitals, viz., two from No. 1, one from No. 2, and one from No. 3, to be sent up to the 1st Division for duty in the small stationary hospital which has been established for the treatment of enteric fever cases. A small furnished house has been obtained, and the necessary extra utensils have been requisitioned for from the Ordnance Department.

The "Majestic" left Cape Town last evening with 180 invalids from general hospitals for England. I inspected the ship with Principal Medical Office, Base, and saw that every provision had been made for the comfort of the sick.

The mail steamer "Moor" arrived from England bringing 19 nursing sisters. Instructions were issued for their distribution.

Colonel Young, Chief Commissioner of the Red Cross Society, called to-day and informed me that he had received instructions from home to proceed to Natal, and that the Honourable Mr. Peel would take over the duties here.

Friday, 19*th January*.—It has been found that the repairs necessary to fit the Red Cross Hospital Ship "Princess of Wales" to proceed to sea will cost somewhere about 300*l*. The Chief Commissioner of the Society pleads that he had no instructions whatever concerning this vessel, and states that he is not prepared to advance this money. He had already given the captain of the ship 500*l*. in cash for pay of crew, provisions, &c., and this sum has already been exhausted. Seeing that the ship was useless for the purpose intended until these repairs had been effected, and that no money was forthcoming to meet the same, I cabled to the Director-General, Army Medical Staff, asking for instructions from the Central Committee.

Accompanied Field-Marshal Lord Roberts on his visit to Claremont Sanitarium and No. 1 General Hospital, Wynberg. Everything satisfactory.

Arranged for four nursing sisters and one female servant to proceed to Modder River by the mail train to-night. These sisters are for duty in the Stationary Camp Hospital, where a good many cases of enteric fever are under treatment.

Arranged for two nursing sisters to do duty at Stationary Camp Hospital at Sterkstroom, where several cases of enteric are also under treatment. One of these nurses was engaged locally by the Principal Medical Officer, 3rd Division, and the other, who belongs to the Army Nursing Reserve, is going up from East London.

The transport "Orient" arrived with civil surgeons and members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. These have been distributed as follows :—

Civil Surgeons.

No. 1 General Hospital, Wynberg	3
No. 3 ,, Rondebosch	7
Base Hospital, Woodstock	1
De Aar	2
Orange River	3
Total	16

St. John Ambulance Brigade.

No. 1 General Hospital, Wynberg	15
Base Hospital, Woodstock	10
De Aar	15
Port Elizabeth	10
Total	50

Sunday, 14th January.—Left Cape Town by 9 p.m. mail and arrived at De Aar 2 a.m. Tuesday. Left De Aar 9 a.m. same day and arrived at Modder River Station at 8.30 p.m.

A 12599.—23. 50.—7/1900.

Wednesday, 17th January.—Inspected Field Hospitals, Bearer Companies, Enteric Hospital, the sanitary condition of the encampment, water supply, &c.

The Field Hospitals were all in working order and were fairly filled with sick, principally diarrhœa, dysentery, and scarlet fever.

The Bearer Companies were not idle, as they assisted the Field Hospitals and they supplied attendants to the Enteric Hospital.

Since the 12th December the troops have occupied the ground situated around the junction of Modder and Riet Rivers. The camping ground is ample for the force, but I would not select it as a permanent camp. For the most part the ground is unsuitable, and the water supply is more than doubtful. Of course the camp is very dusty and not only full of flies but also of mosquitoes.

The nature of the ground can be seen in the latrines, on the surface is a layer of dust, and underneath this in most places comes a white chalky limestone, very impervious to water, very difficult to cut through, and perfectly useless as a covering to disused latrines, as it has no deodorising properties. I have urged to use milk of lime, not only on the open latrines but also over those that are still offensive though closed. Water for the most part comes from the Modder River above the "Guards Drift" and is carted from thence all over the camp by means of water carts. There are a few wells, the water in them seemed very good and drinkable, but that from the river was muddy, and I considered contained a quantity of organic matter. It is now being analysed.

On account of the scarcity of fuel I do not see how it can be boiled. Only a few of the Berkefeld filters have arrived for the troops. It has been suggested to bring the water from the Riet River, but I can see no advantage as the Riet is a smaller river than the Modder, and it has Jacobsdal (supposed to be full of Boer sick and wounded) on its banks. I advocated sinking wells. The water can be had in abundance at about 20 feet. There is ample room for wells on ground not fouled by being camped on. I found that as many as could, used water from the wells, but as no body of men used well water exclusively I could draw no conclusion by this means as to its advantages over the river water. Rough analyses of both waters have been made, and there seemed no doubt but that the well water was potable and of better quality than that from the river.

Enteric cases are treated in a building called the schoolhouse. It was full of—for most part—serious cases, and I understood that every regiment or corps in camp was represented. The 2nd Coldstreams have suffered most severely, having had eight cases and four deaths. There were eight inoculated cases returned as enteric. These are all mild attacks and not likely to prove fatal. Eight of the uninoculated have died.

The epidemic has many interesting features, the symptoms in most instances are quite unmistakable. The eruption is profuse and some of the men had symptoms resembling dangue.

At the day of my visit there were 40 cases under treatment in the Enteric Hospital, and three officers in separate buildings.

I had an interview with Lord Methuen in presence of Colonel Townsend, and I impressed on both the gravity of the situation. They were in a camp from which they could not move on account of military considerations. Their water supply was suspicious. I stated that their present number of 43 cases in camp in no way represented the epidemic, for that their sick were being treated in Orange River Hospitals and also at De Aar.

Having completed my inspection of the camp I left in the afternoon of the same day (Wednesday) for Orange River. I paid short and hurried visits while the train was detained for me at the camps between Modder and Orange Rivers. These were looked after by Colonial Medical Officers. On my arrival at Orange River I wired instructions to Colonel Townsend to inspect Knockfontein Camp, which is about six miles south of Modder River, and is part of Ist Division. This camp receives its rations and water from Modder River Camp, and has contributed 14 cases of enteric, and four under observation to Orange River.

I also directed the Senior Medical Officer, Major Battersby, at Orange River to frequently inspect all the camps up to Knockfontein.

Thursday, 18th January.—Inspected Orange River Camp; I found it in a much more satisfactory condition than on my former visit last month, when I received the wounded from 1st Division.

The following hospitals are present and are doing excellent work :—

New South Wales Hospital of 50 beds.

Major Greenway's 100 beds, organised in Cape and worked principally by Volunteer Medical Staff Corps.

Major Birch's half Field Hospital, organised locally, capable of being raised to 100 beds.

It has been suggested to make one large hospital at Orange River, but I have not seen my way to this; the present arrangement works well. I could not possibly amalgamate into one the hospitals stationed here, and as they stand they are handy units and can be moved if required.

I found 25 enteric, almost all from the Modder River. They were not transferred as enteric but under some other heading and were afterwards diagnosed as enteric.

Locally I found there was almost no sickness, formerly the troops suffered from diarrhœa and dysentery; I attributed this to using Orange River water, which is very muddy. The water supply now comes from wells, and it is pure and good.

Friday, 19th January.—I inspected De Aar and found No. 3 Stationary Hospital working most satisfactorily. The schoolhouse is now used as an enteric hospital. There are two large huts capable of accommodating about 80 sick. Marquees are used for slight cases of sickness. At present the Royal Engineers are erecting huts capable of accommodating another 200 sick and wounded. These huts are made in sections, and are capable of being moved.

I inspected the camp and I found two serious defects, which are to be remedied at once. 1st, the drinking water is being pumped into large tarpaulin tanks, these tanks are uncovered, and consequently are filled with camp sand and dust. 2nd, on account of the dust storms it is not possible to know the covered-up latrines from the clean ground; and as De Aar Camp is constantly having regiments passing through, there is a danger of camping over old latrines.

Having finished my inspection I returned to Cape Town. Every effort is being made to improve the sanitary condition of camps. The hospital arrangements are at present ample. I have placed nursing sisters at the Modder River, and as soon as temporary houses can be erected more will be sent to Orange River and De Aar. I may here state that I am employing more than 70 nurses in Cape Colony alone, beside large numbers in Natal, and on board ships. I make this remark because ignorant outsiders have stated that more nurses should be engaged.

I returned to Cape Town on Sunday, 21st instant, and for first time saw the telegraph report of hospital failure in the "Times." I was not surprised, for the threat was made before I left Cape Town that it would be done. Since my arrival here people who were failures in their own spheres tried to interfere with me as Principal Medical Officer. I did not tolerate it for an instant. The report is untrue, as may easily be ascertained by asking any of the officers and men who have been invalided to England.

Sunday, 21st January.—Surgeon-General Wilson returned from Modder River and De Aar.

Colonel Young, Chief Commissioner Red Cross Society, informed me that he was now prepared to disburse the necessary money for the repairs to the "Princess of Wales" Hospital Ship. I informed the Director-General by cable accordingly.

Monday, 22nd January.—The Hospital Ship "Maine" arrived and I went over her. She is to proceed to Natal at once.

I have, &c.,
W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer, Field Force.

Cape Town,
31st January 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following in continuation of my diary:—

23*rd January* 1900.—Mr. Watson Cheyne, Mr. G. L. Cheatle, Mr. Kendal Franks, Sir William Stokes, Consulting Surgeons to the Forces, reported their arrival (*ex* Carisbrook Castle).

Sir John Furley, Special Commissioner Central Red Cross Committee, also arrived.

The Field Marshal inspected the hospital train (No. 2) and the base hospital at Woodstock. He expressed himself as very pleased with all he saw, but expressed a wish that nursing sisters might be employed at this hospital.

Orders have been issued regarding the protection of water tanks at De Aar from dust by means of canvas covers sewn on to form closed tanks, into which the dust cannot enter.

General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication has, at my request, issued an order concerning camping grounds: all former sites, and sites of latrines and washing places, are to be specially distinguished.

Having received intimation of the presence of much sickness in Ladysmith, and seeing that it is probable in the near future that communication will be opened up between this post and the outside world, I arranged for five civil surgeons and eight nursing sisters (of No. 5 General Hospital) to proceed to Natal for duty in that country.

24*th January*.—Accompanied Lord Roberts at his inspection of the hospital ship "Maine."

25*th January*.—Received authority from the Field Marshal Commanding-in Chief to raise another Volunteer Bearer Company of 60 men. I at once took steps to put this into effect.

The hospital ship "Maine" sailed for Durban, taking in her the five civil surgeons and eight nursing sisters for Natal.

26*th January*.—Arranged for a junior officer, Royal Army Medical Corps, to proceed from a field hospital in the 1st Division, Modder River, to Orange River, for duty with mounted infantry, and a civil surgeon to proceed from Orange River to Modder to relieve the former.

Sent cablegram to Director-General requesting him to discontinue the consignments of boric acid, carbolic acid, chloroform, iodoform, methylated spirit, and ether until further notice.

27*th January*.—Dr. Grigg called. He was introduced by Colonel Trotter, Chief Staff Officer Lines of Communication, who states that he is a consulting physician. I have agreed to take Dr. Grigg as a physician for duty at Modder River without pay of any kind, he having placed his services unreservedly at my disposal.

29*th January*.—Major F. M. Burton, from India, reported his arrival to-day. He is to do duty at No. 1 General Hospital, Wynberg, for the present.

I visited No. 3 General Hospital, including the Portland Hospital. There are several cases of enteric fever, all from up country. The symptoms are well marked, and some of the cases are very severe.

W. D. WILSON,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer, Field Forces.

A 12899.—22. 50.—7/1900.

Cape Town,
7th February 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of diary :—

30th January 1900.—Mr. J. G. Hamilton, of Imperial Yeomanry Hospital, called and asked for information as to site for his hospital. He said it was proposed to place it in Cape Town in houses, or if these cannot be obtained he was to build huts. I pointed out that Cape Town would be very far from the front, and that our tendency is to move up closer to the troops. On account of its position on the railway, I suggested De Aar, and I recommended huts (the movable pattern as used in our advanced hospitals of De Aar and Orange River) and tents.

He quite agreed with my reasons and said he would wire home for further instructions. I promised him every assistance.

The Earl Rosslyn called and explained that he was the representative of the "Absent Minded Beggar Fund," and that he would take over the Red Cross work connected with landing and embarking of the troops. I promised him every assistance in connection with embarkation of invalids.

31st January.—I have now received authority to raise two volunteer bearer companies. These are necessary as another division, 9th, has just been formed locally. The formation of this division, which I could not foresee, has strained all my resources, not only in personnel but in equipment. I have had to use up all the personnel of No. 5 General Hospital, which hospital has not yet been opened. Added to this seven new regiments of Mounted Infantry have been formed.

Visited hospital ship "Princess of Wales"; she has been repaired and is, I understand, ready to go to sea. Her complement of sick and wounded are on board collected from Nos. 1, 2, and 3 General Hospitals. There are no sick or wounded officers on board. Everything connected with invalids and accommodation seemed correct.

1st February.—Cabled to Director-General asking for 500 doses of anti-diphtheritic serum.

Asked Chief Ordnance Officer to cable home for two more sets of bearer company equipment, less ambulance waggons, of which there are plenty, to be held in reserve to meet eventualities. These are to replace the sets required for the new companies.

Inspected No. 2 General Hospital; I found the patients well looked after in every way, and everything connected with the hospital satisfactory. At all my recent inspections of hospitals I noticed a number of cases with very slight ailments, such as varicose veins, corns; also flat feet, hernia. All these declare they cannot do their duty. As medical officers cannot very well return them as fit for duty, and as they are not cases that should be sent to England, I have proposed that all these should be discharged from hospital and returned as fit for "garrison duty." They can thus be used on lines of communication or in defending a post. This has been sanctioned.

2nd February.—The Jewish residents of Cape Town have offered to raise, clothe, and pay 20 men to act as bearers in the field. Their offer has been accepted. These men are to be absorbed into one of the bearer companies now being formed, and are not to be known as a Jewish company.

3rd February.—Inspected Woodstock Hospital. This is an old tumble down set of buildings. No care can make it look nice, nor can money improve it very much. To add to its misfortune we have had to employ local medical officers. I have not found the Cape civil surgeon satisfactory in any way.

Mr. Hamilton, of Yeomanry Hospital, called and said my recommendations as to site, &c., would be carried out. On account of enteric I recommended that he should not, if possible, place his hospital inside the lines at De Aar, but that he should select fresh ground if permitted by military authorities, and that he should sink wells. This can easily be done as water is found 20 or 25 feet from the surface.

Lady O'Hagan called and explained that she wished to assist us, and she proposed to go to Naauwpoort and feed, nurse, and house seven or eight patients. She does not provide a medical officer. Her offer was accepted.

A 12899.—21. 50.—7/1900.

Her tents or huts are to be included in the Stationary Hospital Camp, and are to be under the medical officer in charge.

Asked Commander-in-Chief to wire home for personnel of one field hospital, and for 12 more civil surgeons. I see I must make further calls for more personnel shortly.

5th February.—Professor James Dunlop called, and at his request I have attached him to No. 1 General Hospital for duty. He promised to take over wards, and to render every possible assistance in his power. I gladly availed myself of his services; he does not demand any pay.

I have also accepted the services, on the same terms, of Dr. Grigg, physician, London. He has left for Modder River, and will have charge of a number of enteric.

Dr. Tooth, physician to Portland Hospital, has also gone at my suggestion to the Modder to assist in treatment of enteric.

I may add that I am doing everything in my power to meet this epidemic. I have engaged all the nurses locally that I could find, and that I could house. I could not suggest tents for these ladies on account of the heat and dust in our camps. I have had great difficulty in engaging servants for them, but I am satisfied with what has been done. There is another serious difficulty, and that is our railroads are blocked, and I cannot get up bedsteads and bedding as quickly as I would desire.

6th February.—The enteric epidemic on Modder River is still on the increase. Lord Methuen wires for more personnel of R.A.M.C. It appears from his telegram that there are 21 non-commissioned officers and men of R.A.M.C. sick in hospital, seven of these enteric. He asks for an additional 88 non-commissioned officers and men. As the troops are now concentrating on the Modder River I fear a further outbreak, and I am consequently asking for more personnel.

I am now only able to send 20 non-commissioned officers and men from No. 5 General Hospital, which has not yet been established. Up to date I have not been able to fix on a site for No. 5 General Hospital, as I had to wait till the troops should make some advance, and so make some of the posts on our front safe. The entire personnel of No. 5 has now been used up.

The Commander-in-Chief at my request has wired home for the personnel of one general hospital. (I do not require any equipment.) This is in addition to my previous demand for one field hospital and 12 civil surgeons.

I have, &c.,

W. G. A. Bedford,
Major,
For Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa,
Absent on duty.

Cape Town,
14th February 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz.:—

7th February 1900.—Visited No. 3 General Hospital, and found everything most satisfactory. They told me at the hospital that the present rules for discharging men who require no further treatment is working most satisfactory, and will place the largest number of beds at our disposal for sick and wounded. In addition to the ordinary way of discharging men to "duty," there is a convalescent list, and these are sent to the camp at Greenpoint. Secondly, men who suffer from defects, and who may be unable to make long marches, due to flat feet and other causes, these are discharged to "Garrison Duty," and are used on the lines of communication. Lastly, bad cases are sent to England when wounds are healed or sufficiently recovered.

Professor Ogston called, saying he was going to the Modder, and asked for a note to Colonel Townsend, as he wished to be attached for rations. On account of the number of consultants with 1st Division, I wired to Modder River saying Professor Ogston could be attached to 7th Division. I may add that Professor Ogston is not employed. He simply goes everywhere and writes notes.

S.S. "Avoca" has arrived in harbour from Durban, with invalids for England. Major Butterworth, who is in charge, reports that Civil Surgeon Martin is such a bad sailor that he is useless. I directed him to land, and I have ordered Civil Surgeon Freemantle, from No. 1 General Hospital, to embark for England. I also directed Principal Medical Officer of Base to put two more nurses (locally employed) on board.

8th February.—Directed Principal Medical Officer of Base to make arrangements to send home invalids to England; this to include a number of insanes.

The training of Volunteer Stretcher bearers for two new Bearer Companies is being daily carried out. I this day directed Major Nicolls, R.A.M.C., to come in from No. 3 General Hospital, and to hurry on the training and equipping of the companies.

The Jewish residents of Cape Town are equipping 20 Jews as bearers, these are not to form a separate unit, but will be absorbed into one of the new Volunteer Bearer Companies now being formed. These companies are required at the front.

I expect on 17th a New South Wales Ambulance similar to the one already employed at the front. It is of composite nature, and is somewhat similar to the Field Hospital in India. I propose to send it to the front on its arrival in the "Moravian."

The creation of eight regiments of Mounted Infantry, the organisation of detached regiments into new brigades, and the formation of an entirely new division—the 9th, seriously embarrassed my arrangements. I have had to withdraw R.A.M.C. Officers from Field Hospitals and supply their places with civilians. And in order to create some kind of hospital and ambulance assistance for the newly created brigades, I have been forced to withdraw the Divisional Field Hospitals from the 6th and 7th Divisions, attach to them each a section of a locally mobilised field hospital, give them ambulance waggons, stretchers, and extra surgical haversacks, and make them into composite units to perform the dual functions of bearer company and field hospital.

This arrangement seriously cripples the medical resources of the divisions affected, as the 6th, 7th, and 9th Divisions will have no divisional field hospitals.

Should heavy fighting be experienced, the brigade field hospitals may be seriously overtaxed.

Lieut.-Colonel J. C. Dorman, No. 5 General Hospital, has been appointed Principal Medical Officer of the 9th Division, and directed to appoint a secretary from out of the units of his division.

I have, &c.,
W. D. WILSON,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

A 12899.—20. 50.—7/1900.

Cape Town,
21st February 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz.:—

9th February 1900.—I have omitted to state that at an interview with Commander-in-Chief he said I would be required at the Base, and that it is not advisable for me to go out with the present advance, but that I could go later; and he asked me to nominate a Principal Medical Officer to accompany him during the present advance. I nominated Colonel Stevenson, Principal Medical Officer, Lines of Communication.

Visited No. 1 General Hospital, Wynberg, accompanied by Mr. Burdett-Coutts. He not only kept with me when I examined and inquired into the condition of each patient, but he also noted there was a bath-room and ablution room to each hut, and he visited cook-houses, &c. I did not ask his opinion, but I could see that he was somewhat surprised at the magnitude of the arrangements. He questioned officers and men as to any possible complaints, but he found none.

10th February.—A wire was received to-day from Commander-in-Chief ordering up eight portable huts to Orange River, and two huts for nursing sisters. I had already four huts, each capable of containing 22 beds and I had five nursing sisters in a hut. These huts were in addition to hospital marquees. Orange River camp has always been a trouble, as I have been told that it would never be a permanent camp on a large scale, and that it would cease to be of any importance when Kimberley will be relieved.

It may be contemplated to vacate the Modder River camp and remove the sick (enteric) to the Orange River.

11th February.—Wired to Chief of Staff for permission to place No. 5 Stationary Hospital at Orange River. I also recommended that Deelfontein, 20 miles south of De Aar, be the site of Yeomanry Hospital.

12th February.—Received sanction to place No. 5 Stationary Hospital at Orange River. The question of site of Yeomanry Hospital to stand over. I was also directed to send seven more nursing sisters to Modder River as soon as possible; also necessary furniture, &c., &c.

Lord Roberts has also ordered Mr. Cheatle to form a Surgical Hospital on the island at Modder River. Equipment for this hospital has been sent up.

13th February.—Colonel Townsend has called for large personnel of Royal Army Medical Corps, non-commissioned officers and men, to enable him to work the Surgical Hospital and Enteric Hospital at Modder River, and so avoid using up his field hospitals and bearer companies. To meet this demand I directed Major Nicholl, Royal Army Medical Corps, who is employed training volunteer bearers, to take one company of volunteers to the Modder, and so liberating the non-commissioned officers and men of one of our regular bearer companies for hospital duties. I left the details of this duty to Colonel Townsend, Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division.

14th February.—Received a wire from Principal Medical Officer, 6th Division, reporting Colonel Stevenson (who is acting in my place on Staff of Commander-in-Chief) ill, and that he had returned to Orange River. From second wire it appears that Colonel Stevenson is suffering from ill effects of sun.

15th February.—In reply to query from General Officer Commanding Line of Communication as to hutment requirements for hospitals during the coming winter, I estimated for three entire general hospitals, and huts for another 200 beds elsewhere. I visited Claremont Sanitarium for officers and I found everything most satisfactory.

The manager asked me to relieve him of catering, but at my request he agreed to continue to cater.

A 12899.—18. 50—7/19.0.

17th February.—No. 6 General Hospital arrived in the "American"; Lieut.-Colonel Somerville Large and Major Jennings reported their arrival. They state that they practically have no non-commissioned officers at all to work the hospital with. Quartermaster Glennon, recently arrived from Natal on promotion, was appointed to No. 6 General Hospital.

I received notification that the Commander-in-Chief approved of Deelfontein as the site for the Yeomanry Hospital; also that he approves of the Second New South Wales medical contingent joining General Gatacre's force at Sterkstroom.

18th February.—I have received a wire from Chief of Staff saying that Colonel Stevenson is ill and directing me to appoint another Principal Medical Officer to Headquarter Staff. I wired back to Chief of Staff, Jacobsdal, nominating Colonel Townsend, 1st Division, to be Principal Medical Officer, Headquarter Staff. Lieut.-Colonel M. Gill to be Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division. The Secretaries to remain as at present, and Colonel Stevenson to return to Cape Town. The Commander-in-Chief informed me when leaving for the front that it was necessary for me to remain here for the present, and I see the necessity, as several hospitals landing or about to land must be allotted sites, and I am hourly receiving telegrams from almost every camp stating their wants and asking for more assistance. I am employing a very large number of civil surgeons, and I am engaging nurses locally for all the stationary hospitals. My great difficulty in regard to these nurses is they require quarters and servants. Anyone who has ever visited the Cape can estimate my difficulties in this matter.

Received a telegram from Chief of Staff sanctioning No. 6 General Hospital being sent to Naauwpoort, also the Irish Hospital when it arrives. The Commander-in-Chief now considers the Yeomanry Hospital should be sent to Beaufort-West, and I am directed to consult with General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication. I have done this, and General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication will wire at once to Army Headquarters that Deelfontein is the best site for the hospital.

19th February.—The Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has now finally decided that the "Princess Christian" hospital train is to go to Natal and run on the railway system of that colony. Orders have been issued accordingly, and the train and its personnel will go on at once, Sir John Furley proceeding to Natal later.

No. 6 General Hospital proceeded up country to establish itself at Naauwpoort, it will absorb the Stationary Hospital which I found necessary to establish there. The absolute necessity of organising stationary hospitals on very considerable scales at Orange River, De Aar, Modder River, and Naauwpoort has caused a very heavy strain upon my establishment, and led to the complete breaking up of the personnel of No. 5 General Hospital. For instance, 100 cases of enteric fever had to be provided for at Modder River alone; the 1st Division has moved on towards Kimberley with its field hospital, leaving the enteric fever hospital at Modder River to be staffed by non-commissioned officers and men taken from two bearer companies in the division, whose places have been taken by newly enlisted Cape Volunteer Medical Staff Corps.

Two other newly raised companies will very shortly proceed up country to act as bearer companies to the two newly organised brigades. The members of these companies are absolutely raw material and have only had a fortnight's drill and instruction. They can therefore merely act as bearers, and cannot in any way be compared with the technically trained companies of the Royal Army Medical Corps. However, there was no other means of providing bearers for these two new brigades. It cannot therefore be expected that the surgical assistance rendered in the first and second lines will be as efficient as in those brigades which bearer companies are composed of trained men of the corps.

A second medical contingent from New South Wales arrived, it consists of 90 officers and other ranks, and 14 nursing sisters. This contingent was most urgently required. The force under Lieut.-General Gatacre, consisting of over 6,000 men, had only one field hospital and one newly raised volunteer bearer company. Many cases of enteric fever occurring day by day. A fixed hospital at Sterkstroom, independent of the field hospital, was an absolute

necessity. I have therefore arranged for this contingent to proceed to Sterkstroom viâ East London, and to be allotted to find the staff for a fixed hospital at Sterkstroom, and a half bearer company and half field hospital for Lieut.-General Gatacre's force, which includes 1,500 men of Brabant's force. Four of the New South Wales nursing sisters are to do duty at the Stationary Hospital, East London; four at fixed hospital, Sterkstroom, which, with the four already employed there, will make eight; the remaining six sisters of the 14 being employed in different hospitals on this side.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. D. Wilson,

Surgeon-General,

Principal Medical Officer, F.F.

Cape Town,
28th February 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz. :—

20*th February* 1900.—Visited the "Umbria" which sails to-day with about 200 sick and wounded. Everything seemed correct. Invalids, various corps, 10 officers and 215 soldiers. For duty on voyage—5 nursing sisters, 1 civil surgeon, 1 chaplain, &c., &c.

21*st February*.—Received a wire from Colonel Townsend, Headquarter Staff, saying the two volunteer bearer companies just raised for 18th and 19th Brigades should be sent forward viâ Modder River and Jacobsdal.

These companies are named E and F. Major Nicholl, Royal Army Medical Corps, is to command one, and an officer detailed by Colonel Townsend is to command the second. I expect that both companies will leave by to-morrow night.

22*nd February*.—Received a telegram from Lord Roberts at Paardeberg to the effect that more medical officers are urgently needed, especially for the 9th Division, six being required for that alone; there being nearly 800 wounded in one day. I at once ordered four civil surgeons from De Arr, three from Naauwpoort, six from base hospitals; these, with the one major and four civil surgeons with the two bearer companies, will make an addition of 18 to the field column.

Large supplies of surgical material were pushed up from the advanced depôt De Aar to Jacobsdal, and large supplies sent up from Base to De Aar, Kimberley, and Modder River.

Two civil surgeons sent up from Base to Naauwpoort and one to De Aar.

Sir William Thomson and other members of the Irish Hospital staff reported their arrival in the "Norham Castle," but the unit itself is to arrive in the "Montfort."

Quartermaster Attwood, just promoted, is appointed to No. 5 Stationary Hospital. Sergeant-major Whitcher ex "Canning" is posted to No 1 General Hospital vice Attwood promoted.

23*rd February*.—Arrangements made for Superintendent Nursing Sister Oram, and remaining sisters of No. 6 General Hospital to proceed up country to Naauwpoort and join their hospital, now that accommodation is reported to be ready for them.

Second New South Wales Medical Contingent arrived at Sterkstroom (see note under date of 19th inst.)

Captain J. Grech arrived at De Aar in charge of Mounted Infantry from Burmah.

Lieut. W. C. Croly, Royal Army Medical Corps, proceeded up country to rejoin his unit (Bearer Company, 15th Brigade, 7th Division), having been discharged from hospital—conjunctivitis.

24*th February*.—Received a wire from Principal Medical Officer, No. 6 General Hospital, saying that he had absorbed the Stationary Hospital* at Naauwpoort and that 250 beds were now ready equipped. He asked if he should open more beds. I wired back to equip all his beds at once. These beds are urgently required for wounded from Jacobsdal. I have arranged that the hospitals at Orange River, De Aar, and Naauwpoort are to take all the slight cases coming from Free State viâ Jacobsdal and Modder River, and that the two hospital trains bring down the more serious cases, who are fit to travel to Cape Town. The director of railways is supplying ordinary trains for conveyance of slightly wounded to Orange River, De Aar, and Naauwpoort.

I find that it has been freely stated by many in England and in South Africa that we do not employ female nurses in sufficient numbers. In order to reply to these strictures I give below the numbers actually employed at the different hospitals.

No. 1 General Hospital	25
„ 2 „ „	20
„ 3 „ including Portland	17
„ 6 „ hospital	9

* Organised locally from past staff of No. 5 General.

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No. 4 Hospital is in Natal; and I have had to use up all the personnel of No. 5 General Hospital immediately on landing and consequently I have not been able to open it.

Stationary Hospital, De Aar	4
" " Orange River	6
" " Modder River	9
" " East London	4
" " Sterkstroom	8
Claremont Sanitarium	3
Nos. 2 and 3 hospital trains	4
Base Hospital, Woodstock	4

24th February.—Up to date we have locally engaged 75. I may add that one local nurse who has been loudly calling for employment demanded to be made a lady superintendent. Another, equally loud in her demands, would not accept the usual rate, but wanted a special rate for herself. Both of these are still unemployed. Many other ladies, candidates for employment and pay, have had no training in any hospital whatever. I may add that our general hospitals have never been full, the majority of the patients, either from the nature of their disease or from the trivial character of their injury, do not require that high-class nursing that trained lady nurses only can give. We have comparatively very few serious cases if we exclude the enteric.

In the foregoing statement I have made no mention of hospital ships, beyond saying that I have engaged 75 nurses locally. Many of these latter are engaged in trooping to and from England. Neither have I included hospital ships "Princess of Wales" or the "Maine," also "Trojan" and "Spartan."

25th February.—Visited Mr. George Bullough's steam yacht "Rhouma," as the owner has offered to take as his guests six officers and 14 non-commissioned officers and men convalescents. This offer has been accepted, and at the time of my visit I found four convalescent officers on board.

The accommodation for non-commissioned officers and men was not quite ready as some structural additions are being made. These convalescents are to be Mr. Bullough's guests, and he will make no charge against the Government for messing.

A Royal Army Medical Corps officer is to visit the yacht in harbour about twice a week, or oftener if necessary.

26th February.—Sir Wm. MacCormac called on his return from Jacobsdal and Kimberley. He has had a bad attack of dysentery in Natal and at present he looks worn and emaciated. Colonel Stevenson, who is at the front with Commander-in-Chief, has advised him to return to England. I quite concur. Sir Wm. MacCormac has worked so hard and his services have been so great that I consider he is entitled to a rest. On account of his weak condition I have recommended that Captain Symonds, Royal Army Medical Corps, who has been acting as his secretary, be directed to accompany Sir Wm. MacCormac to England by East Coast.

No. 3 Hospital Train arrived early this morning from Modder River with sick and wounded officers and men from Paardeberg. I was informed that all the medical arrangements at the front were working very well, and the wounded were brought down with the minimum amount of discomfort. I may add that our hospital trains are working splendidly. Nothing could be better than their arrangement and management. In the afternoon I visited the sick and wounded at No. 1 General Hospital, Wynberg, and I found everything in a most satisfactory condition.

27th February.—Visited No. 3 General Hospital and Portland Hospital, Rondebosch. In the former I found about 70 cases of enteric, mostly from Modder River. These are all treated in an isolated camp in large store tents. I never saw in civil or military hospital anything more satisfactory than the management of enteric in No. 3 General Hospital. The Portland Hospital is doing good work, and they (the staff) are on the most cordial terms with No. 3 General.

In the afternoon I visited S.S. "Winifredia," which is taking to England a large number of invalids. I inspected all the arrangements and saw the invalids. The latter required practically no further treatment.

No. 6 General Hospital has opened all its beds at Naauwpoort. I consider this reflects the greatest credit on its staff. Naauwpoort is a splendid situation for a general hospital; supplies can be drawn from Port Elizabeth line, and as soon as our troops open up the main line into the Free State it will become a base of first importance.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon General,
Principal Medical Officer,
F. F.

Cape Town,
7th March 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz.:—

28th February 1900.—Lieut.-Colonel Sloggett and Mr. Fripp, of Imperial Yeomanry Hospital, called; also Mr. Van Alen, accompanied by Mr. Guthrie, M.P. The latter informed me that his Field Hospital of 30 beds will probably arrive on Tuesday next. I promised to help them in every way and to send them on to the front as soon as possible.

Major F. R. Barker, who came down sick from the 6th Division, was discharged from hospital to-day, and I appointed him to do duty in No. 2 General Hospital, Wynberg. For several reasons it was not considered advisable to send him to duty at the front again.

1st March.—Wired to Chief of Staff recommending that No. 7 General Hospital be sent on to Natal on its arrival in this country.

Hospital ship "Trojan," now at Cape Town, is ordered to proceed to Durban at once, as the Principal Medical Officer there wires that all his hospitals are full.

2nd March.—Received a telegram from Principal Medical Officer, Natal, stating that there are 2,000 sick and wounded in Ladysmith, and that most of the staff there are utterly done up and unfit for duty. I have been preparing for this call for more help, and I have two civil surgeons on their way to Durban.

The hospital ship "Trojan" leaves to-day with two more civil surgeons and nine nurses; two other nurses go from intermediate ports. Nine nursing sisters of No. 7 General Hospital are here in port; these remain on ship "Norman," which leaves for Natal to-morrow. I have received permission from Commander-in-Chief to send on No. 7 General Hospital to Natal, and it will be sent on as soon as it arrives at Cape Town.

No. 20 Bearer Company has arrived, and will encamp with cavalry at Maitland till the brigade moves forward.

Visited transport "City of Rome" and found all sick and invalids on board; many of these are in first-class cabins and all seemed most comfortable; there is no overcrowding. I also inspected hospital ship "Trojan," now under orders for Durban. She is taking two civil surgeons and nine nurses for service in Natal. I found everything correct.

3rd March.—Visited Claremont Sanitarium and found all the rooms at our disposal full of convalescents. All were doing well and stated they were well provided for.

4th March.—Wired to General Officer Commanding 3rd Division asking if he will permit his Principal Medical Officer to inspect all hospitals on lines of communication down to East London, as I find I cannot spare time to go by sea to East London, as I would be out of touch with the rest of South Africa. Wired to Colonel Stevenson, Principal Medical Officer accompanying Commander-in-Chief, remainding him that there are medical and surgical stores at Modder River, and that he should replenish his medical units as required. There are now only 46 cases of enteric fever at Modder River.

Visited No. 1 General Hospital, Wynberg, and found all beds in officers' wards except one filled. I gave directions to evacuate another ward in the same group of buildings and to refurnish it as an officers' ward at once. I found Dr. Grigg (*see* diary of 27th January) dangerously ill with enteric. He has been employed at enteric hospital at Modder River, and he must have contracted the disease there. Dr. Grigg recognised me at once, but during our conversation he showed signs of delirium. He must be about 65 years of age, but there seems no doubt of the nature of the disease.

Dr. Tooth, physician to Portland Hospital, has visited him, and I believe that everything that is possible is being done for him.

5th March.—Captain Mason, Royal Army Medical Corps, at present doing duty in No. 2 General Hospital, is ordered to the Modder River in compliance with an urgent request from Colonel Townsend for one Royal Army Medical Corps officer.

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I have arranged to take over another 16 rooms in Claremont Sanitarium for convalescent officers. This gives us an entire wing of the building and places 48 bedrooms at our disposal. I am able to fill this number at once.

I am increasing the accommodation for sick officers in Wynberg on account of the great increase in strength of the troops in South Africa.

I have directed Colonel Townsend, Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, to inspect hospitals at Kimberley, and to report to me as soon as possible. Lieut.-Colonel Dallas Edge, Principal Medical Officer, 3rd Division, will, by permission of General Officer Commanding 3rd Division, inspect all hospitals on Eastern line and make his report to me. I am quite unable to make these inspections myself.

6th March.—Mrs. Field, a lady who has lived in India for many years, and who appears to be a first-rate cook, offers her service to help in cooking for officers. She is provided with tents and servant, and will be no charge to the Government. I have recommended her being sent to No. 6 General Hospital, Naauwpoort.

7th March.—Visited No. 1 General Hospital and went minutely into the condition of all the officers. I was accompanied by Mr. Makins, consulting surgeon. We found everything in a satisfactory condition.

I found Dr. Grigg (*see* diary, 4th inst.) somewhat better, though still seriously ill. Two more wards have been opened for officers, bringing the accommodation to 120.

I have, &c.,
W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force.

Cape Town,
14th March, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz. :—

8th March 1900.—The "Doune Castle" arrived in harbour this day, having on board 40 nursing sisters; orders have been issued as to their destination.

By a recent order the infantry of Lieut.-General Sir C. Warren's division have been ordered from Natal to East London; in consequence of this I have wired to Chief of Staff asking if No. 7 General Hospital should still go to Natal. No doubt the pressure there is great, but they expect to send home 300 sick and wounded at a very early date. The "Spartan" is now on its way to Cape Town from Durban with sick and wounded.

9th March.—Visited Boer prisoners' camp at Simonstown accompanied by Colonel Supple, Royal Army Medical Corps. Most of the prisoners are on board ship; I only saw those in temporary enclosure, who are accommodated in single fly bell tents. The camp space is rather confined, but that is a necessity on account of the difficulty of guarding so many men. Good sanitary arrangements are very difficult to carry out. The prisoners seem to give no assistance whatever in keeping the camp tidy, all the work being done by a few black servants. The dry-earth system is used, and it requires more supervision. The ablutionary arrangements are fairly well provided for. There is a good shed and ample water, with basins, &c. I saw some of the Boers washing their hands and face. On fine days they bathe in the sea, which is only a few yards away from them. This washing and bathing is quite a new sensation to them.

I examined the hospital arrangements, which consist of two rooms in a wooden hut; there were not many luxuries beyond the fact that the few patients were supplied with barrack beds and had good food. There was one case of enteric. He had no alarming symptoms. I gave directions that he should have more attendance, and that the other Boers should be kept out of the hospital, as they are a dirty, lazy lot. I also ordered bedside tables, mosquito netting, &c.

A new enclosure is being prepared for these prisoners, and I examined two houses close by with a view to turn them into a hospital. One house will be required for hospital personnel and the larger house, with about 16 beds, will do for the sick. All necessary arrangements will be made. Dr. Riordan locally employed is in charge of the camp.

10th March.—Received a wire from Senior Medical Officer, De Aar, stating that Civil Surgeon Moore had been wounded in foot in action against the rebels at Britstown. Ambulance waggons were sent out from De Aar to bring in the wounded, &c. At present there is considerable pressure for hospital accommodation, and I have had to direct all hospitals to open as many beds as possible. No. 6 General Hospital, sent to Naauwpoort, was ready to receive sick in a few days after its arrival in camp. The civil hospitals are very slow in their movements, and I fear it will be a long time before Yeomanry Hospital will be at work.

In the afternoon I visited Claremont Sanitarium and I found everything in perfect order. There are now 48 bedrooms (one entire wing) at our disposal, capable of accommodating 55 convalescent officers; most of the rooms are small, and these have only one patient each. This morning I attended a meeting at Office of General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication, relative to evacuating sick and wounded from Natal to England. The following were present: General Sir Forrestier Walker, Sir Edward Chichester, Naval Transport Officer, Principal Medical Officer Lines of Communication, Major Rawnsley, Army Service Corps, and myself. It has been the custom for Principal Medical Officer, Natal, to take advantage of every mail steamer to book 30 or 40 invalids to England. As they have a number of steamers (transport) from Cape Town returning to England, the Transport Officer naturally thought it would be better to book invalids only to Cape Town, and on arrival here all fit to be moved were transferred to Government transport, and those unfit to be moved remained on the mail boat. I could not object

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to this for the transfer was a benefit to the invalids, as they get large first-class cabins. At the request of the General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication, I wrote out the reply for General Officer Commanding, Natal, stating that the naval authorities had never prevented the shipment of invalids by mail steamer, but that in interest of Government, they had transhipped some of the convalescents to Government transports. I can further also state that no invalids sent from Natal to England have been detained in Cape Town. We further pointed out there are three additional ships on their way to Natal, and the "Trojan" and "Spartan" are also used in addition to the "Maine," and ships converted into hospitals at present at Durban.

No doubt there is very great pressure on the Natal side, but it is only of a temporary nature, and can be worked off quickly.

11th March.—Visited Nos. 1 and 2 General Hospitals, found both practically full; directed that more beds be opened at once in both hospitals. A small Civil Hospital capable of receiving and nursing 15 patients is close to No. 2 General Hospital. These have been placed at my disposal, and I have directed medical officer in charge No. 2 General Hospital to see if he can make use of these beds in connection with his hospital.

12th March.—Called on Naval Transport Officer to arrange for shipment of invalids to England. He promised to have the "Greek" ready by Wednesday morning. Her accommodation will be about 20 officers and 150 men. Received a wire from Lord Roberts, Aasvogel Camp, asking what arrangements I can make for Bloemfontein, telling me at the same time to send the Irish hospital there. I wired that I proposed to send No. 8 General Hospital now due. I have, at De Aar, No. 5 Stationary Hospital ready to move at a moment's notice, and I propose to push it forward the moment the line to Bloemfontein is open.

13th March.—The Naval Transport Officer has now arranged for S.S. "Greek" to sail for England on the 15th inst. She will take 17 officers and 164 men. The S.S. "Pembroke Castle" will sail on the 16th inst. She will take 15 officers and 200 men. The Principal Medical Officer, Base, will arrange for nurses and attendants.

I have, &c.,
W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon-General,
Principal Medical Officer,
Army in S. A.

Cape Town,
20th March 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz.:—

14*th March* 1900.—The Officer Commanding Yeomany Hospital has reported to me that he has no blankets and no hospital clothing. The Ordnance cannot supply these. I have asked Mr. Hamilton, Yeomanry Hospital, to purchase at once 500 blankets. The British Red Cross supplies 500 more, and have promised to get ready some hospital clothing.

The 500 blankets purchased by Mr. Hamilton have been placed on No. 3 Hospital Train, which is on its way to Kimberley, with orders to drop the blankets at Deelfontein. I now hope that 200 beds may be ready by Saturday next.

I have asked General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication to push on No. 3 advanced Depôt as far as possible on its way to Bloemfontein, so as to be ready and at hand as soon as the line is repaired from Norval's Pont to Bloemfontein. No. 5 Stationary Hospital at De Aar and Irish Hospital at Naauwpoort are also held in readiness to move on.

No. 7 General Hospital has arrived in Table Bay, and I have asked to have it sent on to Durban at once. The Principal Medical Officer, Natal, will settle the site.

Orders have been issued to the "Spartan," now in harbour with sick and wounded from Natal, to disembark all sick and wounded, and to proceed at once to East London and bring back as many sick and wounded as possible. Inspected Maitland Camp.

15*th March*.—Visited Woodstock Hospital, and went round the Medical Division. I found condition satisfactory. Most of the enteric cases were doing well. I saw one Australian and he was landed off transport with enteric. I noticed that some cases were contracted at Maitland Camp just outside Cape Town.

Visited the "Pembroke Castle," which is to leave for England to-morrow with invalids. I gave orders that no serious case should be embarked, as the accommodation is not as good as on the transports. Major Addison, Royal Army Medical Corps, is to go home in charge.

Received a wire from Commanding-in-Chief at Bloemfontein telling me to be ready to send on 30 nurses to Bloemfontein as soon as the line opens. I wired to Colonel Stevenson, at present with Lord Roberts, that he should prepared a building for No. 3 Advanced Depôt, also to get ready for No. 5 Stationary Hospital, Irish Hospital, and No. 8 General Hospital, and to prepare quarters for nurses.

16*th March*.—Inspected No. 2 General Hospital, and found more serious cases than usual. The wounded from Paardeberg and other camps in Free State have not come down in the same aseptic condition as during the earlier periods of the war. This may be accounted for by the distance the battle fields in the recent actions have been from the railways. There is also an idea that in some instances explosive bullets have been used during the invasion of Free State. Whatever is the cause, it is not easy to explain that wounds in late actions are more liable to become septic than in the first months of the war. We make the fullest possible use of the consultants. Two accompanied Lord Roberts into Free State, and one remained at the Modder to receive the wounded.

Major Addison, Royal Army Medical Corps, and a number of sick and wounded embarked this day on s.s. "Pembroke Castle."

I regret to have to report the death of Dr. Grigg at No. 1 General Hospital, *see* my diary, 27th January and 4th March. For a time he seemed to improve, but he never lost the feeling of intense weakness, and he sank and died. His disease was diagnosed as enteric, but it has not been verified by post-mortem examination.

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The transport "Orotava" has arrived from England with personnel of 5th General Hospital, also 24th Field Hospital. The former to go to Woodstock for duty there. The Field Hospital to encamp at Greenpoint till required. 20th Field Hospital arrived on s.s. "Sicilian," and is encamped at Greenpoint.

17th March, 1900.—The Commanding-in-Chief has ordered that all vehicles belonging to medical units be sent up to join their units at once. When the troops started on the invasion of Free State the Bearer Companies and Field Hospitals were allowed to take only half their waggons.

The number of ambulance waggons for Bearer Companies was reduced from ten to two. This reduction was, I believe, a military necessity, and knowing this, I could not protest. It was my duty to make most of the means placed at my disposal, and I consider the medical officers of Field Force have done this.

I have not been able to visit any of the hospitals at the front lately, for if I had done so I would have got out of touch with Commanding-in-Chief with troops in Free State. I have therefore called on Colonel Townsend, Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, to inspect from Kimberley to De Aar, and the Principal Medical Officer, 3rd Division, has been permitted to inspect some of the hospitals on East London line. As soon as the bridges at Norval's Pont and at Bethulie are repaired, the lines to East London and Orange River Station will cease to be of much importance from a medical point of view. Cape Town will, I hope, be little more than a port of embarkation during the winter months.

No. 7 General Hospital is now on its way to Natal.

18th March.—Visited No. 1 General Hospital, Wynberg. The patients were all doing well, one of the civilian cooks sent out from home for officers' hospitals is said to be careless. I cannot well dismiss him in this country, for it would be no punishment, as he could get as good if not a better post immediately. Received information from Director of Railways that he can pass over the Orange River 20 nurses required for Bloemfontein. I have arranged that these leave by mail the 19th instant.

19th March.—No. 6 General Hospital at Naauwpoort is dangerously full of sick and a few wounded, and fearing wounded being sent from Norval's Pont I directed No. 2 Hospital train to call at Naauwpoort and to transfer suitable cases to Yeomanry Hospital at Deelfontein. This hospital has been able to open 200 beds. The remaining beds will be opened at a later date.

Lord Methuen is forming an Infantry Brigade of Militia, his Principal Medical Officer wired for a Bearer Company and Field Hospital, I advised him to form a Bearer Company by taking 15 men from each Regiment of Militia, and to train and equip. This is being done. We have equipment for this Company in the country.

20th March.—I visited No. 3 General Hospital at Rondebosch. This hospital has been extremely well managed. The surgical work could not be better. They have treated a large number of enteric in large single fly store tents, and the result due, I believe to fresh air, is most gratifying.

Mr. Moseley, donor of the Princess Christian Hospital, has called, he says his hospital is in the Bay. This hospital is to go on to Natal at once.

I have, &c.,
W. G. A. Bedford, Major,
for Surgeon-General, the Army in S.A., on duty.

Cape Town,
28th March 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz. :—

21*st March* 1900.—The hospital ship "Maine" with invalids for England has arrived from Durban for England under orders from Natal authorities. It appears that the home management of "Maine" hospital ship wishes that the "Maine" be used here or Durban as a hospital, and not sent home at present with invalids.

The "Trojan" is also in harbour with sick and wounded from Natal. She is to transfer all unfit for service to s.s. "Cheshire" for England, and sick to be transferred to Wynberg Hospitals.

Received a wire from Principal Medical Officer, Natal, calling for surgeons and nurses. I replied that No. 7 General Hospital is now on its way to Durban. Princess Christian Hospital is also leaving here in a day or so. Six civil surgeons and as many nurses as I can spare. These all are to proceed at once.

The 1,000 portable beds promised by War Office have not yet arrived, nor can I get any information as to their whereabouts.

No. 8 General Hospital arrived this evening on s.s. "Cephalonia," being about one week overdue. As the railway is blocked it must be days before it can be pushed through.

22*nd March*.—Visited No. 1 General Hospital, accompanied by Colonel Supple, Principal Medical Officer, Lines of Communication and Base. Our inspection was more into the sanitary requirements of the hospital than into the care of the patients; we tabulated many demands so as to further perfect this hospital. I am urging the Royal Engineers to fence in the hospital with barbed wire, leaving only three entrances, which are to be guarded by a sentry each, so as to control the number of visitors. These precautions are absolutely necessary now that we have so many enteric.

I may add that two cases of enteric almost died from eating cake supplied by one of the regular working lady visitors in No. 1 General Hospital.

Visited American hospital ship "Maine," accompanied by Major Bedford; we found all the patients on deck looking comfortable and well. I was not able to examine the sick and wounded, but I got all necessary information from staff on board. I was informed that the "Maine" leaves for England at 6 a.m. the 23rd instant.

Langham Hospital arrived to-day.

23*rd March*.—Visited "Trojan" and "Doune Castle," the former is transferring sick and wounded to Wynberg and to convalescent camp at Green Point, also men unfit for further service, to leave for England. I saw all patients on board "Trojan," and all were in a satisfactory condition. I drew Major Hart's attention to a report which I heard, that the sick officers on board thought the stewards attending on them were not as clean as they might be. Major Hart promised to see what could be done in this very delicate matter. The "Doune Castle" has very good accommodation. One officer and 100 men embark to-day. No serious cases. The ship's doctor is in charge. There are two nurses. As the officer and the 100 invalids are all convalescent and require little or no attention. I consider the staff is ample for all practical purposes. The "Doune Castle" sails to-morrow for England.

24*th March*.—Received an order from Commander-in-Chief, South Africa, to send Portland Hospital to Bloemfontein, after the general hospital which I have ordered up. Visited Green Point Camp and non-dieted hospital. The Principal Medical Officer, Base, has taken over three new buildings built by the Cape Town authorities as a new hospital. About 80 beds can be established, and are now being equipped.

In the cycle track close by are about 2,000 Boer prisoners, a number of these are sick, and are being treated in tents. As tents are frequently blown

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down by south-east winds, it is proposed to erect corrugated iron houses for use of Boer sick.

25*th March.*—Nil.

26*th March.*—Visited Claremont Sanitarium, and found that institution in a most satisfactory condition. Major Barnes, Royal Army Medical Corps, is in charge. I found one officer, a Lieut. Madden, 3rd Hussars, attached to the 16th Lancers, ill with enteric. He has been in ill-health some time, and was sent to sanitarium for rest when the enteric symptoms appeared. He is quite unfit for removal to one of the general hospitals. He has no alarming symptoms, but he is terribly low-spirited.

Visited the "Cheshire," about to sail from this port for England with invalids, namely, 10 officers and 125 non-commissioned officers and men. I examined into the arrangements, and I was satisfied that they were satisfactory; all the wounded were on deck, and there were no dressings required, as wounds were healed. The ship's doctor and Surgeon Cunningham were in charge, and two nurses.

Inspected the "German," from Natal; she left Durban with 28 officers, including four medical officers and 181 non-commissioned officers and men. There have been four deaths on board among the latter since sailing, namely, two dysentery, one enteric, and one scurvy. All looked weak and emaciated. I found many of the cases too ill to continue the voyage, and I gave directions that these should be carefully removed to one of the general hospitals. This removal is to be done by a local hospital train which comes alongside of the ship.

All these invalids have come from Ladysmith, and they require most careful and liberal dieting. I have therefore given orders to medical officers in charge to let all have extras as required. They all require warm clothing, which has been indented for. Major Porter, Royal Army Medical Corps, is in charge. There are three other medical officers on board, including Major Green, Royal Army Medical Corps, who goes home as an invalid. There are five nurses and 19 male attendants, also one compounder and one clerk. I have placed six additional male attendants on board.

Mr. Treves, consulting surgeon, on his way home, has called; he leaves by mail to-morrow for England. All his service has been in Natal. I believe the Principal Medical Officer, Natal, can testify as to the eminent services rendered by Mr. Treves while in South Africa.

I have, &c.
W. D. Wilson, Surgeon-General,
P.M.O.F.F.

Cape Town,
4th April 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz.:—

27*th March* 1900.—Visited Simonstown, as there is a serious outbreak of enteric and measles among the Boer prisoners of war quartered on ships in Simons Bay, or in tents inside a barbed wire enclosure. The prisoners are kept on board the "Mongolia," "Manilla," and "City of Cambridge," also 800 in tents in the enclosure. There is no doubt whatever but that the prisoners brought the enteric and measles with them from their own dirty camps, and they stated that many had fever while they were in the field. At the time of my visit the following sick were in hospital:—

SS. "Mongolia" - -	10 enteric,	40 measles.
SS. "Manilla" - -	20 ,,	7 ,,
SS. "City of Cambridge" -	3 ,,	10 ,,
In Hospital - -	15 ,,	30 ,,

As long as the prisoners must be kept on board ship it seems to me to be useless to speak of isolation of sick on account of measles, as the disease is bound to attack everyone who can possibly contract it. To relieve the ships of the great strain a large house near the railway station has been taken as a hospital, and is being rapidly got ready; it will contain about 70 beds. At present several of the wards are equipped, and the Naval authorities are sending six cases daily off the ships for admission.

On account of the nature of the prevailing disease among the prisoners, enteric, dysentery, &c., it has been decided to make the hospital a dieted one. The hospital can never reflect credit on the staff, for the habits of the Boers are too dirty, and they see no reason or beauty in being clean. The patients never hesitate at night to foul the floor of the ward or tent though the latrine may be only a few yards distant. Many of the Boer prisoners are in an emaciated, wretched condition, having evidently been badly fed while in the field, and, consequently, are bad subjects for enteric fever. I fear the mortality will be very high.

28*th March*.—Inspected No. 3 General Hospital, and Portland Hospital, and found everything correct. The Portland is at present slowly evacuating so as to be ready to move to Bloemfontein early next month.

Lieut.-Colonel May, Royal Army Medical Corps, Principal Medical Officer, 8th Division, has called to-day. This Division is to disembark at East London.*

29*th March*.—Visited Woodstock Hospital, where No. 5A General Hospital is being established. The original hospital is an old tumble-down building, and its structural arrangements are most unsatisfactory. During the last three months a number of corrugated iron huts have been erected, and the accommodation is now up to almost 600 beds.

Visited Green Point Hospital; this is non-dieted. There are almost 300 sick, mostly slight cases. Major Trevor, Royal Army Medical Corps, is in charge, and is assisted by three civil surgeons locally employed. I have directed a board of officers to examine all these sick, and to decide their future treatment, as I have not, I regret to say, perfect confidence in the three civil surgeons.

30*th March*.—Received a wire from Colonel Townsend, Principal Medical Officer, 1st Division, stating that he required five medical officers to complete his units about to move forward, and also to leave a sufficient staff at Kimberley to carry on the work there. I am making necessary arrangements. Inspected Officers' Hospital, No. 1 General Hospital, and found all doing well. A large number of the officers are quite convalescent, and I am proposing to some of them to take sick leave in this country. A well furnished

* Orders subsequently changed.

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house at Lemonfontein, with servants, &c., has been placed at my disposal by the owner. The climate is probably the best in South Africa. As Lemonfontein is 13 miles from Beaufort West, I am not allowing any convalescent to go except those who require neither treatment or nursing, as I am totally unable to send surgeons or nurses.

The Van Alen Hospital is at Kimberley, and is for the present attached to Lord Methuen's Division, which is about to move north from Kimberley.

31*st March.*—Visited S.S. "Orotava," about to proceed to England with invalids. Of these, 16 are officers and 204 non-commissioned officers and men. The accommodation is good and food excellent. There are four female nurses and three male attendants; Major Burnside, Royal Army Medical Corps, in charge, assisted by the ship surgeon. Major F. W. H. D. Harris, Royal Army Medical Corps, is going home sick, but in case of an emergency he will be available for duty. Most of the invalids will, practically, require no treatment.

1*st April.*—Received a letter from medical officer in charge No. 6 General Hospital, Naauwpoort, stating that he has 160 cases of enteric among men who have been in Kimberley and at Norval's Pont. He asks for more non-commissioned officers of Royal Army Medical Corps. As I have no reserve of Royal Army Medical Corps in this country, I must take them from bearer companies and field hospitals, so as to carry on the work in the general and stationary hospitals. I have in employment a very large number of female nurses in all fixed hospitals. These cannot take the place of non-commissioned officers, though they do relieve the nursing orderlies to a certain extent. Visited Yeomanry Depôt at Mackenzie's Farm, a few miles outside Cape Town, accompanied by Mr. Fripp, senior surgeon of Yeomanry Base Hospital at Deelfontein. At present there are almost 3,000 men in camp, and their sick have been received into our base hospitals at Cape Town, but the Yeomanry consider their sick should be sent to their own hospital, and that it should be wherever they may be. As the Yeomanry are all moving to the front, Mr. Fripp naturally says what is demanded is quite impossible. A depôt of about 400 men is to remain at Cape Town, and for these I am establishing a small non-dieted hospital in their camp. The seriously sick to be admitted as at present into our general hospitals. I consider that, when the Yeomanry move up country, that this question will right itself.

2*nd April.*—Visited Claremont Sanitarium and found everything most satisfactory. Lieutenant Madden, 3rd Hussars, suffering from enteric, is doing fairly well. He has no complications, but he is very low spirited and nervous about himself. Dr. Tooth, of Portland Hospital, visited him on Saturday last at my request. He simply confirmed the diagnosis. He was called in consultation to satisfy Lieutenant Madden's relatives in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. D. Wilson, Surg.-General.,
P.M.O., F.F.

SIR, 11th April 1900.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz :—

3rd April 1900.—I regret to say that our sick list, principally enteric, is still on the increase, and I am daily receiving demands for assistance. My great want continues to be Royal Army Medical Corps, both officers and men. Those at present out in Africa are seriously overworked, and I fear their breakdown.

4th April.—Sir Thomas FitzGerald, Consultant to the Army in South Africa called. As there is at present only one consultant in Natal, I have asked Sir T. FitzGerald to go there; he promised to do so after about 10 days stay in Cape Town. Received a wire from Colonel Gallway, Principal Medical Officer, Natal, stating that he still had an enormous sick list, and he asked for Royal Army Medical Corps officers, and more nursing sisters. I hope shortly to be able to send the latter as they are on their way from England. Captain Dibbin, commanding Victorian Bushmen, called and introduced the nurses which accompanied him. There were no orders how the latter were to be employed, and as the Bushmen contingent had no sick attendants, I considered that it was necessary that these nurses (10) should accompany the contingent as far as possible. I also directed their Medical Officer to draw from the Base here, medical and surgical stores, &c.

5th April.—The 8, 9, and 10 General Hospitals have arrived in this country, all are under orders for Bloemfontein. The 8th should now be disembarking stores, &c. at East London, and a part only of its equipment can be allowed on as the railway authorities are unable to clear the line of stores. I am unable to say when 9 and 10 General Hospitals can get through. Hospitals are urgently required in the Free State. I was fortunate enough to get through advanced Depôt Medical Stores and No. 5 Stationary Hospital, and later the Irish Hospital, also 32 nurses as soon as trains were able to cross at Norvals Pont.

Nos. 2 and 3 Hospital trains have also been sent to Bloemfontein. Visited s.s. "Austral" leaving to-day for England with 189 invalids. Very few of these require any attention, and it has been considered sufficient to place the ship surgeon in sole charge with four nurses and three male attendants. Sister Barbara goes home as a passenger only, and not as a nurse. She is an American lady who was landed here off Hospital Ship "Maine." The accommodation on board is excellent. The six sick or wounded officers have each a large cabin, and are very comfortable.

6th April.—Visited Woodstock Hospital (No. 5A General). There are a large number of enteric under treatment, all doing fairly well. This hospital receives all sick off transports as they arrive in Table Bay. I noticed several men who ought not to have been sent out from England. There were four admitted off the ships for mental disease. Boards of Medical Officers have examined these and found them quite sane. I consider that many of the Civil Surgeons on these ships are not very careful in their diagnosis. As there are a number of junior civilians employed at this hospital, I have directed that a Board of Medical Officers should examine and decide at once on all these cases lately arrived from England. My opinion is that a large number suffering from secondary syphilis and other causes are quite unfit for active service.

7th April.—The railway is now blocked with traffic and I am unable to get hospitals for Bloemfontein through. I have only got priority in traffic for 200 tons. Everything that is possible is being done to pass up personnel and medicines, and dressings. I have no doubt but that the pressure on the railway will become less in time.

S.S. "Mahratta" leaves to-day with 30 tubercle cases. The weather here is becoming bad and they have been kept here as long as we could. I have not been able to visit this ship, but Principal Medical Officer, Base, has done so. On account of the formation in this country of new brigades from Lines of

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Communication troops, I am in want of Bearer Companies and Field Hospitals. The Yeomanry, I am to-day informed, are to be organised into four brigades, for these there is one Bearer Company and one Field Hospital. I understood that the Yeomanry were looking after all their own medical arrangements, and that their hospitals would be a lesson to us. They did bring out houses, but not a single blanket or any clothing for their General Hospital which is being established at Deelfontein.

8th April.—Two new divisions are being formed, namely, Mounted Infantry (principally, I believe, Colonials) for this I have nominated Colonel Williams, N.S.W., as Principal Medical Officer. He arrived here with an excellent ambulance from New South Wales, and this being most mobile, constitutes the field medical arrangements for this division. The other new division is called the 11th, I have nominated Lieut.-Colonel Magill, of No. 1 Field Hospi al, as principal medical officer.

9th April.—S.S. "Assay" with 161 invalids arrived here from Natal, as she is a fine new ship with spare accommodation, I propose to place on board a number of convalescents. Major Josling, Royal Army Medical Corps, Principal Medical Officer to Sir F. Carrington's force called. He states he has made provision for two Field Hospitals and one Stationary Hospital. He has 12 surgeons and 12 sick attendants. He expects to pick up more on arriving at his destination. He will find the ten nurses mentioned in my diary of 4th instant most useful. Major Josling mentioned that s.s. "Urania" in which he arrived is not a good ship for transport of troops. He says there were 13 cases of pneumonia, of which two died. Visited No. 1 General Hospital in order to show it to Lady Roberts. She expressed approval of all the arrangements.

10th April.—No. 2 Hospital train arrived yesterday with sick and wounded from Bloemfontein, and I hope to get it away this evening as it is urgently required in the Free State. I am sending by it 100 light folding beds and bedding, and I hope to send more by every returning train. There are three General Hospitals trying to get to Bloemfontein, but the traffic is so great that I am unable to get them through. No. 8 has been landed at East London, and I have an order for 200 tons of its stores to go on.

Most of the personnel of 8, 9 and 10 General Hospitals has been sent on in advance. 82 nurses have just arrived from England in mail steamer the "Briton," seven are for the Scottish Hospital, and are temporarily attached to No. 6 General Hospital. Twenty for No. 11 General Hospital, these are to go to Kimberley. I have detailed 25 for duty in Natal, 10 for No. 1 General Hospital, 6 for No. 2 General Hospital, 2 to No. 3 General Hospital, 3 to Woodstock, 2 to Orange River, and 2 to Stationary Hospital, De Aar.

Visited Green Point Camp and found that the hospital huts are being erected to take the place of tents during the rains of the winter months. A large number of Boers suffering from enteric are treated here. We have allowed some Dutch ladies to assist in nursing these.

I find a very great difficulty in getting personnel locally to nurse Boers on account of the dirty habits of the latter. I have no non-commissioned officers or men of the Royal Army Medical Corps for this duty. I visited cycle enclosure close to this camp, and found over 1,800 prisoners. The Medical Officer in charge reports that their general health is improving all round. I found 30 enteric or suspected enteric, and 35 measles, all were isolated from the rest of the prisoners. The fever cases are to be removed into hospital at Green Point close by.

Visited s.s. "Assay" (on her way from Durban to England), she had on board 27 officers, convalescents who came to Cape Town for a change. These have been distributed to No. 1 General Hospital, Claremont Sanitarium, and Hospital Ship "Spartan." There were 161 sick and wounded non-commissioned officers and men. The "Assay" being a fine ship with plenty of good accommodation, the Principal Medical Officer, Base, placed on board 113 non-commissioned officers and men and 27 officers. All in charge of two surgeons, four nurses, and ten attendants. I found that the Captain of the "Assay" had closed the water-closets attached to the Hospital. As many of

the invalids were very weak, and suffering from chronic dysentery or diarrhœa, I brought the matter before the Naval authorities here, and had these closets opened. Professor John Chiene called, also Mr. Horrocks Openshaw. I propose to keep the former in Cape Town as consultant to the General Hospitals.

I have, &c.
W. D. Wilson, Surgeon-General,
P.M.O., F.F., South Africa.

Cape Town,
18th April 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz. :—

11*th April* 1900.—The following nurses arrived by S.S. "Salamis," viz.—nine from New Zealand, seven of these are paid for by town of Otago and Southend, and are under an engagement for six months. The remaining two we have engaged at usual rates. These are, for the present, distributed in threes to Nos. 1, 2, and 3 General Hospitals. Sister Nicolay and ten nurses also arrived by same ship from West Australia. I have taken these also on at usual rates, namely, 40*l*. per annum and allowances. These latter all go to Natal. Professor John Chiene is attached as consulting surgeon to General Hospitals, Cape Town, relieving Mr. Makins, who leaves for Bloemfontein.

12*th April*.—Visited No. 1 General Hospital at Wynberg, and found everything most satisfactory. The Royal Engineers have completed the barbed wire fence, which we found necessary in order to protect the patients, especially those suffering from enteric, from ladies who will insist in bringing food into the hospital. Nos. 2 and 3 General Hospitals have not been worried and annoyed by visitors without passes as No. 1 has.

13*th April*.—The 10th Division has been ordered from Natal to Cape Colony, and this day I have received a wire from General Officer Commanding of that Division from East London asking me what medical arrangements I can make for him as he left one Field Hospital and two Bearer Companies in Natal. Previous to this I had been informed from Army Headquarters that he was ordered to bring all his medical units with him. In reply I wired, "I have no "medical units whatever for you. I understood Field Marshal had ordered "these to accompany you, stop; can only suggest your attaching thirty "regimental bearers to each Field Hospital, and draw, say five ambulances and "extra stretchers for each Field Hospital, making these units perform double "duty of Bearer Company and Field Hospital."

I have recently enlisted sixty volunteer stretcher bearers in Cape Town. These are now clothed and trained as much as possible, and are intended to fill up vacancies in the existing Bearer Companies. Forty are now under orders to join the field army at Bloemfontein to fill up vacancies. I have received authority to raise a bearer company from the Militia regiments quartered here. This will make the second Militia Bearer Company raised in this country.

14*th April*.—Visited "Spartan" in Table Bay, she is at present in use as a Hospital Ship, and is full of sick. Most of these are from transfers off transports in the bay. These sick have never landed in this country, they became ill during the voyage from England. Visited "Servia," leaving to-day for England with invalids. I examined all the arrangements, and found everything satisfactory. The following embarked: officers 4, non-commissioned officers and men 149. The ship's surgeon is in charge. There are four female nurses and five male attendants. All the invalids have been provided with warm clothing. It is now settled that the Scotch Hospital goes to Norval's Pont. To enable these to open their beds at once we have supplied them with tents, as I fear it will be some time before they can erect their huts, the personnel and equipment are now on their way to Port Elizabeth. No. 11 General Hospital on arrival is to go to Kimberley, as a very large number of troops will be employed on that line. In addition to Lord Methuen's force at present in that direction, about 1,000 Irregular Horse, and a brigade of Infantry for 10th Division, with artillery, are on their way there. Called on General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication, relative to two communications I addressed to him about shifting sites of camps of Lines of Communication. My second letter had special reference to De Aar, where there is a local outbreak of enteric. The General Officer Commanding Lines of Communication at once promised to shift site of De Aar camp on to perfectly new ground.

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15th April.—On account principally of a report from Yeomanry Hospital, Deelfontein, that it will be three months before their hutments will all be up, I have asked the Commander-in-Chief to wire to England for another General Hospital. My other reason for this request is that one Division (10th) has been transferred to us from Natal, and the authorities there are unable to transfer any of their hospitals to this side. I have so many nurses in the country that I cannot put up any more, and I have consequently asked that the usual complement of nurses should not be sent with this hospital.

16th April.—I have received a demand from No. 6 General Hospital at Naauwpoort, for 4 Civil Surgeons and more male attendants. This hospital is simply overpowered with work, and I fear will be till all the general hospitals are opened at Bloemfontein. The failure of the railway to move up hospitals is causing not only inconvenience, but peril. Hospitals are now being opened at Bloemfontein, and the field hospitals and Bearer Companies which, up to the present, have done this duty in the Free State, are now being relieved by Nos. 8, 9, and 10 General Hospitals. I have moved four civil surgeons from Nos. 1 and 2 General Hospitals to Naauwpoort, and two Non-commissioned Officers for Orange River. I expect some St. John Ambulance men from England in a few days, and a party of these will be moved up. I have wired to Army Headquarters for priority of transports for Scotch Hospitals from Port Elizabeth to Norval's Pont, where a hospital is now urgently required. I am sending tents to Yeomanry Hospital at Deelfontein to enable them to not only employ their large staff, but also to relieve some of the present pressure. Late this day I met General Sir A. Hunter, Commanding 10th Division, and in reply to my query, he said he has not brought any medical units for his Division from Natal. In his telegram to me, referred to in Diary, 13th instant, he asked only for one field hospital, and two bearer companies. I therefore, naturally concluded that he had brought the remaining units with him. One Brigade of 10th Division goes to Kimberley, and I have been able to give it the 24th Field Hospital. The other Brigade is to go to Aliwal North. I have wired to Army Headquarters to detach to it a field hospital and bearer company from one of the Brigades at Bloemfontein, as the troops there have large hospitals close at hand.

17th April.—Colonel Macnamara, Royal Army Medical Corps, reported his arrival here this day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. D. Wilson,
Surgeon-General, P.M.O.F.F.

Cape Town,
26th April 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz.;—

18*th April* 1900.—Colonel Stevenson, Principal Medical Officer with Army Headquarters, wires that his sick list is increasing and urging necessity of evacuating to base. I have wired directing him to establish a convalescent camp at once, as a very large number of the sick at present in most hospitals are mild cases requiring a week's rest and good food. These should not encumber hospitals at a time of great pressure like the present. I have also informed him that No. 3 Hospital train left here for Bloemfontein yesterday, and that he has No. 2 Hospital train at his disposal. I am filling up vacancies almost daily with the civil surgeons lately arrived. Visited the S.S. "Cymric" leaving to-day with invalids. I found 14 invalid officers and 211 non-commissioned officers and men. This ship is very large, and everything possible has been done towards making the sick comfortable during the voyage. Two of the sick officers are from Royal Army Medical Corps, namely, Major Thomas and Lieutenant Evans. The ship's surgeon is in charge, assisted by Civil Surgeon Bailes, who is going home, as his services are not required in South Africa. He arrived here yesterday on board S.S. "Umbria." Four lady nurses are on board, one civil compounder, and 12 stewards available for duty.

19*th April.*—Visited No. 3 General Hospital, Rondebosch, and found everything working well. The officers in Officer's Hospital are all rapidly recovering, and those convalescent ask not to be sent away to Claremont Sanatorium. There are still a very large number of enterics, but no recent admissions. The mortality in this hospital from enteric has been very small, but recently the rate has increased, due to sudden hæmorrhages. I suggested this might be due to the fall in the temperature, especially towards morning, and I recommended that the night orderly should put an additional blanket over each patient during the night. Colonel Exham, Royal Army Medical Corps, joined for duty from Natal. I am sending him to be Principal Medical Officer, Bloemfontein. Quartermaster and Honorary Lieutenant Thowles, of No. 6 Field Hospital, reported his arrival from Pretoria. He was taken prisoner in the affair at Sannaspost, and he accompanied our sick and wounded to the Transvaal. He says the Boers looked on him as a surgeon, though he never said that he was one, and he was allowed to attend on the sick on their way north. The Boers treated him well. He gives a most interesting account of his travels.

20*th April.*—Orders are now being issued to send half of No. 3 General Hospital from Rondebosch to Springfontein. This section will be lightly equipped, and I have ordered up 400 wooden stretcher beds (out of the 1,000 sent out from England) as being more suitable than heavy iron bedsteads.

21*st April.*—Surgeon General Wilson and Colonel Exham (who has just arrived from Natal having become supernumerary there on the relief of Ladysmith) proceeded to Bloemfontein by the mail last night. The former is on inspection duty, and the latter proceeds to take up the duties of Principal Medical Officer of that Station.

22*nd April.*—The Edinburgh Hospital has arrived at Norval's Pont, and is establishing itself there.

Every endeavour is being made to get No. 11 General Hospital up the line to Kimberley, but the great block in the traffic renders this most difficult; an advanced party with light equipment is therefore being despatched in order that assistance may be available there as soon possible. Increased hospital accommodation is wanted at that station, owing to the 10th Division (Lieut.-General Hunter) from Natal, having proceeded there. Operating north, and north-east of Kimberley, there is Lord Methuen's force, consisting of the 9th Brigade and a Brigade of Militia formed at Kimberley.

Altogether, therefore, there is a considerable force in the vicinity of this town.

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Difficulty is also experienced in getting the Yeomanry Brigade Field Hospital and Bearer Company up to Springfontein, where the Brigade is concentrating.

A new Division, the 11th, has been organised under Major-General Pole-Carew, C.B., consisting of the Guards Brigade and the 18th Brigade. Surgeon Lieut.-Colonel Magill of the Guards Brigade Field Hospital has been appointed Principal Medical Officer.

Colonel Williams, of the New South Wales Medical Corps, has been appointed Principal Medical Officer of the new Mounted Infantry Division, numbering about 11,000. The medical units of this Division are furnished by the New South Wales Bearer Company and Field Hospital.

Colonel Stevenson, Royal Army Medical Corps, has been appointed as Principal Medical Officer with Army Headquarters in the Field (and Major Sylvester as his Secretary), as it was found quite impossible for the Principal Medical Officer of the Army in South Africa to be constantly shifting his office owing to the immense correspondence and numerous returns from all parts of the command.

Colonel Stevenson represents the Surgeon-General, with the moving force, and the Surgeon-General is in constant communication with him and with Lord Roberts. This plan has been adopted in the case of the Ordnance Department also.

All Principal Medical Officers of Divisions communicate direct with the Surgeon-General, and only matters of local arrangement in the Orange Free State Field Force are dealt with by Colonel Stevenson. In an Army of this size, with many other bodies of troops operating in different parts of the country, besides the main Army with the Commander-in-Chief, this appeared the only plan, and was insisted upon by Lord Roberts. The Surgeon-General by means of periodical visits to the different forces, including the main Army at Bloemfontein, keeps in touch with all. Army Headquarters has a branch of its office here also, in order to obviate the necessity of more correspondence than is absolutely necessary going up to the Headquarter Office actually in the field.

24*th April*.—Owing to the 10th Division arriving from Natal with no medical units whatever, it has been necessary to detach the 23rd Field Hospital from the divisional troops of the 8th Division and give it to the 10th Division in addition to the 24th Field Hospital (*see* Note under date of 16th instant).

There is now no division in this Army that possesses a Divisional Field Hospital; that of the 1st Division is doing duty in Kimberley, but will be relieved by No. 11 General Hospital; even then the 1st Division will only have the Field Hospital of the 9th Brigade (Major Harris'). Mr. Van Alens' Hospital of 30 beds, and the so-called Divisional Field Hospital (No. 8 Company from York, originally the 3rd Brigade Field Hospital in the Army Corps scheme).

It will be seen, therefore, that the number of Field Hospitals is altogether nine below the normal scale; the following divisions on this side having no Divisional Field Hospitals; and there being only halves for two fresh Cavalry Brigades and none for corps troops, 1st, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Divisions.

Lieut.-Colonel O'Connell, from No. 2 General Hospital, has been appointed to the charge of No. 11 General Hospital, proceeding to Kimberley.

Attached is a rough list of the allotment of the medical units in this command, exclusive of Natal.

I have, &c.

WALTER GEO. A. BEDFORD, Major, R.A.M.C.,
For P.M.O. Army in S.A.
(absent inspecting).

P.M.O. of Divisions.

1st Division	Colonel E. Townsend, C.B.
3rd "	Lieut.-Colonel D. Edge.
6th "	" W. L. Gubbins.
7th "	" J. A. Gormley.
8th "	" W. A. May.
9th "	" J. C. Dorman.
10th "	Not yet allotted.
11th "	Surg.-Lieut.-Colonel Magill, Coldstream Guards.
Mounted Infantry Division	Colonel Williams, N.S.W., Medical Superintendent.
P.M.O., Base	Colonel Supple.
" L. of C. (designate)	" McNamara.
" Bloemfontein	" Exham.

General Hospitals.

No. 1 General Hospital	Wynberg.
" 2 " "	Wynberg.
" 3 " "	Rhondebosch (section now moving to Springfontein, O.F.S.
" 5 " "	Woodstock, Cape Town (absorbed Station Hospital).
" 6 " "	Naauwport.
" 8 " "	Bloemfontein.
" 9 " "	Bloemfontein.
" 10 " "	Bloemfontein.
" 11 " "	For Kimberley.

Stationary Hospitals.

No. 2 Stationary Hospital	East London.
" 3 " "	De Aar.
" 5 " "	Bloemfontein.

Several smaller establishments—Simon's Bay, Green Point Convalescen Hospital, Maitland, Stellenbosch, &c., &c.

Medical Units, Cape Colony and Free State.

Bearer Companies.	Allotment.		Where Employed.
	Brigade.	Division.	
2nd Cav. Bgde. (No. 12 Coy. R.A.M.C.)	2nd	Cavalry	Free State.
No. 1 B.C. (No. 18 Coy. R.A.M.C.)	Guards	11th	Do.
" 3 " (" 1 " ")	9th	1st	Boshof—Kimberley.
" 11 " (" 9 " ")	1st	Cavalry	Free State.
" 7 " (?)	14th	7th	Do.
" 10 " (No. 8 Coy. R.A.M.C.)	12th	General Clements.	Do.
" 16 " (" 7 " ")	13th	6th	Do.
" 19 " (?)	15th	7th	Do.
" 20 " (?)	21st	(?)	Do.
" 21 " (?)	16th	8th	Do.
" 22 " (?)	17th	8th	Do.
Cape V.M.S.C. B.C.	22nd	3rd	Do.
Major Birch's B.C. (R.A.M.C. and Cape Volunteers).	18th	11th	Do.
Cape V.M.S.C.	19th	9th	Do.

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Field Hospitals.	Allotment.		Where Employed.
	Brigade.	Division.	
No. 1 Field Hospital (18 Coy. R.A.M.C.) -	Guards	11th	Free State.
„ 6 „ (6 „ „) -	2nd	Cavalry	Do.
„ 7 „ (19 „ „) -	9th	1st	Boshof—Kimberley.
„ 10 „ (8 „ „) -	Divisional	1st	Kimberley.
„ 11 „ (9 „ „) -	1st	Cavalry	Free State.
„ 16 „ (7 „ „) -	22nd	3rd	Bloemfontein.
2nd Div. „ (3 „ „) -	3rd	9th	Free State.
8th „ „ (4 „ „) -	12th	General Clements (detached Brigade).	Do.
2nd Corps Troops (18 Coy. R.A.M.C.) -	13th	6th	Do.
3rd Div. Field Hospital (6 Coy. R.A.M.C.)	18th	11th	Do.
2nd Cav. Bgde. (?) - - -	14th	7th	Do.
5th Div. Field Hospital (?) - -	15th	7th	Do.
4th „ „ (?) - -	19th	9th	Do.
20th Field Hospital (?) - -	21st	(?)	Do.
21st „ „ (?) - - -	16th	8th	Do.
22nd „ „ (?) - -	17th	8th	Do.
23rd „ „ (?) - - -	5th	10th	Kimberley.
24th „ „ (?) - -	6th	10th	Do.
Van Alen's Field Hospital - - -	Kimberley Brigade.	1st	Boshof—Kimberley.
N.S.W. Medical (1st) Contingent B.C. and Field Hospital.	M.I. Division.	—	Free State.

Other Hospitals, &c.

Imperial Yeomanry Hospital	-	Deelfontein.
Irish Hospital - -	-	Bloemfontein.
Edinburgh - -	-	Norvals Pont.
Langman - -	-	Bloemfontein.
Portland - - -	-	Bloemfontein.

Claremont Sanitorium for Officers.

Imperial Yeomanry	Bearer Company -	- Yeomanry Brigade.
	Field Hospital -	- Yeomanry Brigade.

Detachments - - -	Orange River -	About 250 beds.
„ - - -	Modder River -	Will be closed.
N.S.W. Medical Corps (2nd contingent) - - -	Sterkstroom -	150 beds.
R.A.M.C. (original garrison) -	Queenstown -	80 beds.
„ - - -	Port Elizabeth -	(?) 100 beds.

Cape Town,
2nd May 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz. :—

25*th April* 1900.—Ordered six nursing sisters from Kimberley to Bloemfontein by telegram.

Issued orders for Civil Surgeon Horn, who had just arrived in the "Rakaia," to proceed to Bloemfontein, and for Civil Surgeon Lees (ex Umbria), to relieve Civil Surgeon Denyer on Hospital Ship "Spartan," the latter to proceed to Bloemfontein at once. Civil Surgeon Denyer has been on this ship all the time and was anxious for a change.

The "Kildonan Castle" left with invalids for England. Officers, 20. Soldiers, 319. Staff, two surgeons and five nurses.

Dr. O'Callaghan, having had some difference with the Staff of the Langman Hospital, left, and returned to England. Dr. Scholtz, of Cape Town, was sent up to-night to Bloemfontein to take his place temporarily.

No. 11 General Hospital left Cape Town for Kimberley.

27*th April.*—Eight Civil Surgeons (including Lieut. McNab, who has a temporary commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps), landed from "Winifreidian." They are detailed as follows :—Four to Natal, three to Bloemfontein, one to Woodstock (temporary). 160 hospital subordinates as follows :—

No. 6 General Hospital, Naauwpoort	40
Orange River Hospital	20
No. 3 Stationary Hospital, De Aar	15
No. 2 Stationary Hospital, East London	10
No. 2 General Hospital, Wynberg	16
No. 3 General Hospital, Rondebosch	35
Base details in reserve	24
Total	160

30*th April.*—Telegram received from Bloemfontein to the effect that the field hospitals must be cleared at once, and arrangements made for taking 1,200 sick evacuated from them. Orders were at once issued to Naauwpoort, De Aar, and Deelfontein to evacuate as many as possible to base, and inform Bloemfontein how many sick they could take. Bloemfontein also directed to evacuate on base as soon as possible.

Great difficulty experienced in getting the section of No. 3 General Hospital from Rondebosch to Springfontein, owing to stringent orders issued by Chief of Staff concerning regulation of traffic at present juncture.

The Commander-in-Chief ordered the establishment of a convalescent camp for 1,000 at Norvals Pont, tents and pallaisses to be issued. However, I failed to get priority for the tents from Chief of Staff, and we are now trying to get them up on the ambulance train.

Nursing sisters Warmington and Stevens arrived from New Zealand in the S.S. "Aberdeen," they are detailed for duty at Bloemfontein.

Orders issued for a large draft of civil surgeons and hospital subordinates to proceed from base to Bloemfontein to take charge of the sick evacuated from the field hospitals.

The transport "Aurania" left for England with a large number of invalids.

2*nd May.*—I have just returned from my inspection up country. The present diary is not completed, but I hope to write it up and give my account of my inspections next week.

I have, &c.
W. D. WILSON, Surgeon-General,
P.M.O., F.F.

12899—7. 50.—7/1900.

Cape Town,
9th May 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz. :—

2nd May 1900.—I returned by mail train this morning from De Aar, on my way down the line I looked at the various posts and inquired into the medical arrangements as far as I possibly could. I found everything working satisfactorily.

Wired to Chief of Staff requesting that Lord Roberts would send for 50 nurses from England to come at the rate of 10 per week.

Lieut.-Colonel Falvey, Royal Army Medical Corps, has been appointed medical officer in charge convalescent camp at Norval's Pont. I wired to him this day to expedite the establishing of this camp; also to open a small detention hospital, and so liberate Major Hamilton's Field Hospital, which is required at the front.

3rd May.—Before leaving on inspection duty I obtained authority to raise a Militia bearer company from the regiments at the base, and though extra pay was offered I could obtain only about 10 candidates. It appears that the men feared to be separated from their own regiments. They did not like the idea of being attached to Brigades of regulars and sent into the Free State.

The attempt has been such a failure that I have abandoned all hope of organising this company, and so must fall back on my original plan of raising a company locally from among the English unemployed in Cape Town. I may here point out that a Militia bearer company for a Brigade of Militia has already been formed, and is, I understand, working well, and will, no doubt, continue to do so while they remain in their own brigade.

Major Cockerill, Royal Army Medical Corps, called for orders for the Welsh Hospital. I informed him that I was expecting orders daily from the Commander-in-Chief as to site. I have recommended Springfontein as a good site. This hospital is provided with huts, and it is very doubtful if these will be allowed up country.

4th May.—The Senior Surgeon of the Welsh Hospital called and expressed his readiness to help us in every way. I welcomed him and said we were pleased to accept his services.

It may be mentioned that the 10th Division came round from Natal without any medical units. To meet this I had to detach divisional field hospitals from 8th Division, also 24th Field Hospital. I have no spare bearer companies, so regimental bearers were called for and attached to the field hospitals.

Since then orders were issued to Natal to send over two field hospitals and two bearer companies; these are on their way. The bearer companies will both go to the 10th Division, and the field hospitals will be distributed, one to the 3rd Division, and one to be at the disposal of Colonel Stevenson with headquarters.

I may add that I have had to detail all divisional field hospitals to the new brigades formed in this country.

5th May.—Received wire from Colonel Exham, Principal Medical Officer at Bloemfontein, relative to evacuating sick from Bloemfontein. I wired orders to Norvals Pont to hasten the opening of the convalescent camp and to inform Principal Medical Officer at Bloemfontein when ready.

Half of No. 3 General Hospital is now opening 400 beds at Springfontein. All these would have been ready but for the block on the railway. The base at the Cape is rapidly becoming empty, and my next move will be to move up all the beds I possibly can from Cape Town to Free State. This morning I had a long interview with General Sir F. Walker relative to ladies visiting officers' hospital. He agreed that these visits must cease. I have had to erect a barbed wire fence round No. 1 General Hospital, and policemen have been

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placed at the gates. Ladies have forced these sentries. The hospitals now will be on a firmer and more healthy basis, and *will cease to be the resort of ladies and their photographers.*

6th May.—Called on Principal Ordnance Officer and Railway Transport Officer relative to sending up 400 beds to Springfontein. I obtained priority for this service 10 days ago, but the block on the line is a perfect bar to all hospital stores proceeding to the front.

7th May.—Called on General Sir F. Walker, and drew his attention to the urgency of Hospital Service, and reported that I, yesterday, saw the Principal Ordnance Officer, and Railway Transport Officer, and I was assured that the 400 beds would be forwarded to Springfontein without further delay on the 6th instant. This has not been done.

The General Officer commanding lines of communication again gave orders that this service must be carried out to-day.

Sir Charles Warren has wired for a Field Hospital for his column proceeding to Griqualand.

I can spare a half Field Hospital which has been organised in this country, called Major Cox Cape Field Hospital.

This column will consist of Yeomanry Volunteers and one battery Royal Artillery.

I have received a most alarming letter from the Principal Medical Officer, Natal, as to the number of sick, and the increase still goes on. I have wired to Commander-in-Chief the following :—

"Principal Medical Officer, Natal, says, he wants more General Hospitals, and suggests getting them from India. 'Stop.' Perhaps you could obtain four from there, two for Natal and two for here. I noticed at my inspections recently our men are breaking down. 'Stop.' Failing complete hospitals, perhaps following personnel could be supplied: 16 Royal Army Medical Corps Officers, 20 Assistant Surgeons, and 400 Native attendants, half for Natal and half here, please inform me result. This is in addition to all previous demands."

I have, &c.
W. D. Wilson, Surg.-Gen.,
P.M.O. F.F.

Cape Town,
14th May 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary :—

7th May.—Colonel McNamara leaves for Kimberley this day on inspection duty.

8th May.—Commandant, Norvals Pont, wires that convalescent camp is ready for 300 men, and he has notified this to Principal Medical Officer, Bloemfontein.

No. 2 Hospital train leaves to-day. I am sending up a large number of stretchers in it to be used as bedsteads at the front.

Visited Green Point Camp. There are now about 7,000 men there. The hospital arrangements, including Boer hospital, are very good. This had to be suddenly established. The Principal Medical Officer, base, took over a new building intended for a civil hospital; he erected huts, tents, &c.: we call it a non-dieted hospital, though we supplied cooks. The arrangements work well. When the Boer hospital was first opened, Dutch ladies were freely admitted. Now we exclude ladies all round, and the death rate has wonderfully decreased among the Boers with enteric. This in part I believe is due to the enteric being on decrease, but may also be due to the absence of improper food, which these ladies were suspected of bringing to the sick.

9th May.—Principal Medical Officer, Bloemfontein, is evacuating large numbers of convalescents down the line, and about 700 are expected in Cape Town during next 24 hours. Visited Nos. 1 and 2 General Hospitals and arranged for the admission of from 300 to 400 into each hospital. This can be done without overcrowding by erection of tents. No. 2 General is now being hutted, so we not only use the tents but also huts. These convalescents only require rest and food, and will soon be sorted out and distributed to rest camps called convalescent depôts. These will be equivalent to many general hospitals, and will relieve pressure. These convalescents are not shown in hospital returns while in depôts. Each man, in addition to his ordinary ration, will receive 2 ozs. bacon daily, and double ration of jam, *i.e.*, 1 lb. jam per week.

I have received the following wire from Commandant, Norval's Pont :—
" Have 150 convalescents here, 130 more coming to night, have informed
" Bloemfontein can take 200 to-morrow and 300 following day."

10th May.—Visited Claremont and found everything most satisfactory. Most of the rooms are empty at present. Dr. Wainwright, who was in charge of a sanitarium for officers at Madeira, has arrived in Cape Town. The " Madeira Home " has been a failure, as officers would not go there. (I have asked the Committee to establish a convalescent home at Matjesfontein. There Mr. Logan has placed a large new hotel at our disposal, and has also offered 200*l.* a month to assist expenses. The hotel will require furniture, &c. It is possible, if this be a success, that we may be able to give up Claremont.)

Visited Simon's Town and inspected Palace Hospital, it is in a most satisfactory condition. This is used only by Boers. There are still a large number of enteric, most of them convalescent. The hospital can accommodate about 220 sick.

11th May.—Colonel McNamara is at Kimberley, and he wires to say he must establish hospital accommodation for 1,200 beds. Just now two divisions are operating in front of Kimberley. There is a considerable hospital staff there, including No. 11 General Hospital. I have received a wire from Norvals Pont stating that the convalescent camp there is working well.

I am opening another convalescent camp at Victoria West for 500 men. This will relieve the hospitals at Deelfontein, De Aar, and Naauwpoort.

12th May.—Visited Woodstock Hospital and found the medical stores there well supplied with dressings. The stock of some pills and tabloids are running low, but we have telegraphed for these.

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We are now raising an additional 100 volunteer stretcher bearers; these are being rapidly trained and will be posted to our bearer companies in the field and so enable me to withdraw a similar number of R.A.M.C. bearers for No. 12 General Hospital, which I am organising in this country. My chief anxiety now is want of carriage. I cannot get beds and tents in any quantity into the Free State.

Diary of my Visit to Free State.

On 20th April, at 9 p.m., accompanied by Colonel Exham, R.A.M.C., I left Cape Town and arrived at Bloemfontein 4 a.m., Monday, 23rd inst. On my way up I was unable to visit any of the stations, with the exception of Norvals Pont, where there was considerable delay. Here I met Sir James Clarke, in charge of Edinburgh Hospital, and Major Hamilton, in charge of half a field hospital. I found Norvals Pont admirably suited for a hospital. The ground from the surrounding hills sloped down towards the river, and though large numbers of men have encamped here, there is still a wide and clean area for fresh encampments. I settled on the site for the Edinburgh Hospital, also for a convalescent camp for 1,000 men. The water is said to be very good, and supplies, such as milk, eggs and butter are obtainable.

The Edinburgh Hospital unfortunately has brought huts and it will take weeks before these can be erected. Such hospitals with their 700 tons of kit are ill-suited for service up country, and their 100 beds give us poor help.

23rd April.—Bloemfontein.—I commenced my inspection at 9 a.m. and made a fairly minute examination into every question connected with hospitals and their management.

At mid-day I called on Lord Roberts and Chief of Staff. The former asked me my opinion as to the hospital arrangements, I replied that I found everything most satisfactory. Lord Roberts said that also was his opinion, and he praised all the arrangements made for sick and wounded. He approved at once of my proposal for convalescent depôts, and the Chief of Staff issued the order for its formation at Norvals Pont.

24th April.—I continued my inspection and found all hospitals in a high state of efficiency. Supplies, such as milk, eggs and butter are deficient, as our present wants with over 1,100 enteric are too much for any African town.

The following shows the distribution of our sick and wounded :—

Convent	60 beds	These constitute No. 10 General Hospital.
Industrial Home	55 ,,	
Dames Institute	100 ,,	
Grey College	150 ,,	
St. Michael's Home	96 ,,	
Free State Barracks	100 ,,	
Volks Hospital	40 ,,	

Nos. 8 and 9 General Hospitals are in marquees on very fair ground outside the town.

The Portland Hospital is close to No. 8 and the Irish Hospital close to No. 9.

The Langman is party in buildings and partly in tents.

No. 5 Stationary is in the Raadzaal and has 130 beds.

The field hospitals are crowded mostly with slight cases of illness.

The following is the grand total in all the hospitals in and around Bloemfontein, namely, 111 officers; of these, 28 had enteric, 21 other fevers, 8 gunshot wounds, and 54 other diseases. There are 2,911 N.C.O.'s and men; of these 1,134 have enteric, 701 other fevers, 55 gunshot wounds, and 1,021 other diseases. I notice that a very large number of the enteric are convalescent, and it appears as if enteric is on the decline. Almost all of the enteric cases must go to England. Many of the other diseases, as soon as the patients have sufficiently recovered, will be transferred to convalescent camps.

I received orders from Lord Roberts to transfer my office to Bloemfontein as soon as convenient.

25th April.—Visited some of the hospitals again for second time. Appointed Colonel Exham Principal Medical Officer, Bloemfontein, and gave him all necessary instructions.

26th April.—Left Bloemfontein 8 a.m. by mail train, halted for one hour in afternoon at Norvals Pont and met the Commandant, Sir James Clarke, and Major Hamilton, R.A.M.C., by appointment, and gave all instructions relative to convalescent camp. Arrived at Naauwpoort at 11 p.m.

27th April.—At 9 a.m. I commenced my inspection of No. 6 General Hospital. The camp is pitched on a ridge, and at one place is astride the railway line from Norvals Pont to Naauwpoort. The hospital can now accommodate 900 patients, and the staff is necessarily a large one. On account of a report that the water supply had been contaminated by the presence of the mortuary tent, and that enteric had originated in the hospital camp itself (this report was started by a lady who was permitted to live in the camp), I made a most minute examination of every thing connected with the sanitary arrangements. The water comes from a well about ¾ mile from south side of camp. The mortuary tent is away to the northern slope of the ridge, and the filth pits are still further off to north, and about one mile from camp.

The mortuary tent is almost a mile from the water supply and the filth pits 1¾ miles. I believe the origin of the report was due to a stand pipe being fixed on same side of the ridge as the mortuary tent, this stand pipe has been used for ablutionary purposes. I investigated everything connected with enteric, treatment of excreta, &c., and I satisfied myself that all I was told was untrue.

The enterics were all admitted from the force operating in the Free State. A few of our own men, no doubt, did contract the disease while attending on the sick.

During my inspection on 27th and 28th, I saw every sick officer and man in hospital, and I found everything connected with this hospital in a most satisfactory condition. I called on Lady O'Hagan, who brought a cook and a large recreation tent for sick officers from England. She is not permitted to attempt nursing, but she assists at housekeeping. Her little establishment has had more accidents than all the hospitals in South Africa. Her recreation tent has been burned down, and the mosquito netting of one sick officer went on fire.

A second lady, a Mrs. Field, came from England as a specialist in cookery, and was employed for a time in Officers' Hospital. She could not cook, and left by my order.

I left Naauwpoort, 11.30 p.m., and arrived at De Aar, 4 a.m., 28th instant, and commenced my inspection at 8.30 a.m. De Aar has become very unhealthy, and some time ago I addressed the General Officer Commanding lines of communication on the subject. The camp has been moved and the garrison is now small.

I found on my inspection 363 cases under treatment; of these 79 were enteric. The framework of this hospital is No. 3 Stationary. Of the original personnel, 4 have died, 4 invalided, and 9 are on sick list.

Left on evening of 28th for Deelfontein Yeomanry Hospital, and found a town of a very substantial nature in the shape of wooden houses. The work is still going on, and the camp will not be entirely ready till early in June. To enable them to open, I gave them a large number of marquees, and they are treating about 400 cases. Their staff is a very large one. 29th, returned to De Aar, and left same night by mail for Cape Town.

13th May.—Nothing of importance.

14th May.—Chief of Staff has wired to me giving priority to second half No. 3 General Hospital to Free State.

Orders have also been issued for Welsh Hospital to proceed to Springfontein at once.

Colonel McNamara returned this morning from Kimberley.

I am leaving Cape Town this night for Bloemfontein, taking one clerk and one orderly. Major Bedford and rest of office staff to follow.

I have, &c.

W. D. Wilson, Surgeon-General,
P.M.O., F.F., S.A.

72.

Cape Town,
23rd May 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of diary :—

15*th May* 1900.—Orders issued for the Scotch Hospital (*ex* "Pembroke, Castle") to proceed to Kroonstadt without delay, but, to save time, the nursing sisters some dressers, and five of the surgeons are being sent up by mail in advance.

Other nursing sisters from different hospitals are also being sent up to same place.

Convalescent Depôts for 500 soldiers are being established at Kimberley, Victoria West, and Rondebosch. One for 1,000 has already been started at Norval's Pont, and one for 500 at Bloemfontein.

18*th May*.—Orders issued for second half of No. 3 General Hospital to proceed from Rondebosch to Kroonstadt. The first half of this hospital is already at Springfontein, but will be relieved by the Welsh Hospital, and will then be avilable for duty further up in Free State.

21*st May*.—Orders issued to-day for Colonel Luke to prepare to send up country half of No. 2 General Hospital from Wynberg, lightly equiped.

All home pattern bedsteads to be exchanged for portable ones.

Twenty-eight nursing sisters have been pushed up to Kroonstadt for work in the temporary hospital there.

The "Princess of Wales" is for the present being used to supplement the hospital accommodation at the Base, which has been materially reduced by the sending up of the whole of No. 3 General Hospital from Rondebosch.

No. 11 General Hospital at Kimberley is being extended to accommodate 1,200 sick.

The "Spartan" left this evening for East London.

Major P. Marsh, R.A.M.C., in charge of No. 3 Stationary Hospital, died of enteric fever at the Yeomany Hospital, Deelfontein.

I have, &c.

W. G. A. BEDFORD, Major,
for P.M.O. absent on duty.

12899—5. 40.—7/1900.

Bloemfontein,
16th June 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz. :—

13*th May* 1900.—Left Cape Town by mail train leaving 9 p.m. with one corporal and one private, Royal Army Medical Corps. Arrived at Bloemfontein at 8 p.m., 15th inst.

21*st May*.—I am pressing for a special train to take up to Kroonstad 19th Brigade Field Hospital, and "C" Company, Cape Medical Staff Corps, to-morrow. I will, if this train is allowed, take up surgeons, dressers, and nurses. Authority has been granted to pass on 2nd section of No. 3 General Hospital; it is now on its way from Cape Town. Authority has been granted, as soon as transport becomes available, for half a general hospital from Cape Town to Kroonstad.

22*nd May*.—Railway Staff Officer advises me to start for Kroonstad to-morrow, as I will then be railed through, and so will be there one day earlier in Kroonstad, for if I leave to-day I will have 40 miles to march. I wired this to Lord Roberts.

Arranged with Railway Staff Officer to attach carriages to baggage train for carriage of myself, Mr. Fripp, Yeomanry Hospital, 5 surgeons, Scotch Hospital, 6 dressers, 15 nurses, and 1 medical officer and 30 men of "C" Company Cape Volunteer Medical Staff Corps.

23*rd May*.—Scottish Hospital has arrived here, and second half of No. 3 General is expected. I have wired direct to Lord Roberts asking for priority for these to go on to Kroonstad without unloading. The standing orders to Railway Staff Officer is to send on, first food, second siege trains, then hospitals, so if I do not get priority the trucks must be unloaded here.

Wired to Principal Medical Officer, Lines of Communication, to send up all or part of No. 2 Stationary Hospital, which is at present at East London. Hospital Ship "Spartan" has been ordered round to act as base hospital. Ordered to Kroonstad the volunteer bearers lately sworn in, and who are being trained at Woodstock. Wired to Commandant, Norval's Pont, that orders are being issued to double accommodation at Norval's Pont convalescent camp, and as the pressure now is very great, he can place eight men in each bell tent as a temporary measure. Arrived at Kroonstad on Friday morning, 25th inst.; visited the hospitals, namely, Grand Hotel, Presbyterian Church, Kroonstad Hotel, and Russian ambulance. I found all crowded; the patients, however, had been well fed, and had actual necessaries. Major Ford, with 18th Brigade Field Hospital in charge, and he was doing everything that any one possibly could. During the day we collected about 300 trivial cases, placed these in train, and passed them down the line to Bloemfontein; wired for ambulance train to take away serious cases not supposed to be enteric.

26*th May*.—No. 15th Brigade Field Hospital arrived here yesterday evening, and left early this morning, with orders to pass on to the front as quickly as possible. I passed all day, from sunrise to sunset, visiting the hospitals and seeing that the sick wanted for no attention. The surgeons of the Scottish Hospital, under Professor Cayley, have taken over Kroonstad Hotel. I brought them on with part of their personnel in advance of their equipment. The Grand Hotel is evacuated of men, and I left the officers there under the charge of Dr. Manning, a local practitioner. Part of personnel of 3 General Hospital took over charge of Presbyterian Church. I reduced the overcrowding in Russian ambulance. I distributed the nurses to Kroonstad and Grand Hotels and to Presbyterian Church.

27*th May*.—I was able to-day to liberate No. 18 Brigade Field Hospital, and sent it on by route march. I kept back Major Ford for a few days to assist me, as he can rejoin his hospital by going by train to railhead. The 19th Brigade Field Hospital and "C" Company, Cape Medical Staff Corps,

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arrived by train from Bloemfontein, and have gone on to railhead, *i.e.*, about 40 miles north of Kroonstad. I also sent on one Royal Army Medical Corps officer, and two civil surgeons in addition. Yeomanry Hospital and Bearer Company are marching from Bloemfontein. I have also ordered 17th Field Hospital from Zand River to go on at once to rail head. I have detained for the present 40 volunteer bearers, recently raised for general duty at Kroonstad, I use them for carriage of sick to and from the railway, and they also assist in getting up bedsteads, &c., in the various buildings. These bearers can go on by rail later on when required. Ordered two civil surgeons from Bloemfontein to Winburg for duty.

28th May.—Ambulance train arrived last evening; during the day we placed on board a large number of convalescent officers and a number of men, all for the Edinburgh Hospital at Norval's Pont.

No. 3 General Hospital is opening out, it arrived yesterday morning. I passed the entire day in various hospitals, and received and wrote a large number of telegrams.

Lord Methuen inspected all the hospitals. The hospitals are rapidly coming into good order, and I find the Royal Army Medical Corps officers and men are working capitally with the personnel of the Scotch Hospital.

29th May.—No. 3 General Hospital has taken in almost 200 of Lord Methuen's sick. The Scotch Hospital has not opened yet, but they could not for want of transport, as their site is at some distance from the line. Arranged for the washing for all the hospitals. Native women will be commandeered and paid and placed under European supervision. The washing will not be very high class, but it will be sufficient.

No. 2 General is to proceed to Johannesburg as soon as railway opens. I am collecting personnel to be pushed up to Johannesburg as soon as rail opens.

A part of 2 Stationary Hospital has arrived from East London, namely, one officer and 15 men, and the following are under orders, two Royal Army Medical Corps officers, five civil surgeons, 10 nurses, 50 non-commissioned officers and men, also personnel of 2 General Hospital, in advance of equipment.

1st June.—Every day has been passed trying to get hospitals in order, and in consultations on serious cases. Accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel Wood, No. 3 General Hospital, I visited all the hospitals in town. I issued all necessary instructions. I gave particular directions that the Russian Ambulance should be evacuated as quickly as possible. Their standard of hospital management is not the same as ours. I ordered more beds, 1,000 blankets, and a large amount of crockery ware from Bloemfontein to Kroonstad, and left for Bloemfontein accompanied by Colonel Ryerson, Canadian Red Cross, in an open truck.

2nd June.—Arrived in Bloemfontein 7 a.m., 6th June. Since my return to Bloemfontein, I have daily passed my time in visiting every hospital and examining the patients. I have visited the following hospitals:—

"Greys College." This is a capital building, and well suited as a hospital; there are 174 beds. I found the majority of the enteric entering or in the convalescent stage. I found everything satisfactory, except that one of the civil surgeons was ordering more food than the patients could or did consume, I directed that this waste should cease.

"Dames Institute" consists of two buildings, and are fairly well suited for hospital use. Since my last visit I noticed very great improvements in kitchen, ablutionary and general arrangements, and at present I consider the buildings suit the purpose for which they are used. There are 225 beds. There are 32 sick officers, in this number I include Professor Ogston, who is ill with enteric; this gentleman accompanied Lord Methuen's Column from Kimberley to Kroonstad, and from the last-named place he travelled in No. 2 Hospital Train to Bloemfontein. He told me he was quite comfortable, and that he was doing well.

"St. Michaels" contains 70 beds. I found all sanitary arrangements, and provision for care of sick, satisfactory. I found no fault, nor did I consider any orders necessary.

"Barracks," 94 beds, same remarks as above.

"Industrial Home." This building is so well arranged and so well managed that a stranger might easily think it was originally intended for a hospital; there are 100 beds. I found sanitation, management, treatment of sick, and establishment, to be in a most perfect condition.

"Volks Hospital." There are 68 beds, everything generally satisfactory. The above six buildings are included in No. 10 General Hospital, and the general management seems to fall almost entirely or Major Freeman, Royal Army Medical Corps.

No. 9 General Hospital. This is situated on a plain near the railway, and a railway siding runs into the camp, so it is most conveniently situated for reception of sick convoys from the north. On account of the very large number of sick sent back daily as the troops advance on Kroonstad, it was found necessary to more than double the accommodation. I increased the personnel and equipment, and by careful sorting out the mild cases of sickness, of which there are large numbers, the staff were able to give due attention to the more serious ones. On account of the proximity of the remount depôt, I intend to move on this hospital as soon as I possibly can.

No. 8 General Hospital is situated on a plain to the west of Bloemfontein; its sanitary condition is better than that of No. 9, in that it is not crowded by horses or camps close to it. It is, however, badly situated for reception of convoys, as it is a long distance from railway. In future this will not matter much, as it will be used more for treating sick of garrison only. I found general arrangements good, and the sick, both officers and men, all well attended to. Like No. 9, it has more than doubled its accommodation.

No. 5 Stationary is in the Raadzaal, and has 120 beds; it is well managed, and I am satisfied with general arrangements. I noticed many serious cases among both officers and men. All are well cared for, and all have everything necessary to their recovery.

"Irish Hospital" is in tents close to No. 9 General Hospital. There are 60 beds at present. A part of this hospital has gone on with the advance into the Transvaal. I found all sick doing well, and were comfortable.

"Langman Hospital" is in Ramblers Club and cricket ground. It is partly in the club house, and part in tents. On account of erysipelas breaking out this hospital had not had at all times all its beds open. Its Senior Surgeon has left. I have never found out the real cause of his retiring; his place was taken for a very short time by Dr. Scholtz, of Cape Town; he also has left. The total number of cases treated by this hospital will be very small.

"Portland Hospital," is in tents close to No. 8 General Hospital. It has always been well managed, and the staff have increased their accommodation to meet the pressure on the outbreak of enteric. Sanitary arrangements excellent.

On account of the number of cases of enteric, dysentery, &c, among the nurses, it has been found necessary to have a separate hospital for the sisters. A separate house has been taken, and at my visit I found 11 sisters and 2 servants ill in the wards. This hospital is well managed, and every comfort possible has been provided.

The Field Hospitals, 15th Brigade and 23rd Brigade are full, and as these may have to move at short notice, I gave orders to transfer all cases fit for removal to general hospitals, and that they should admit no more sick, as there is now ample accommodation in the fixed hospitals.

During my inspections I noticed daily the very large number of men rapidly convalescing, and it appeared to me that the majority of the present sick ought to be out of hospital in three weeks. The enteric convalescents must go home.

At present 600 men and many officers are only waiting trains to take them to Cape Town for embarkation.

9th June.—I have been "marking time" all this week expecting to get through to the Transvaal by train. It was supposed that the line would be ready by Wednesday 6th instant, and priority had been granted to me for personnel of No. 2 General, and No. 2 Stationary Hospitals. The former is here at Bloemfontein, and the latter at Kroonstad.

The Boers having cut the line north of Kroonstad, I am unable to get through. It was fortunate that I was able to push on the following Field Hospitals after the troops had advanced, namely, 15th Brigade Field Hospital, 17th Field

Hospital, 19th Field Hospital, Yeomanry Field Hospital, and Bearer Company and "C" Company Cape Medical Staff Corps. I also sent on a few medical officers who were available in addition to above units. The troops at the front cannot therefore be said to be short of medical assistance.

26th May.—The Surgeon-General's Office left Cape Town for Bloemfontein to be established there for the present.

29th May.—Opened the office at Bloemfontein to-day the Surgeon-General is still away at Kroonstad organizing the hospital service at that station. As many hospital stores as possible are being pushed up there.

I have, &c.
W. B. Wilson, Surg.-General,
P.M.O., F.F.

Sir, 23rd June 1900.

I have the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz.:—

12*th June* 1900.—At 1.30 p.m. left in No. 4 Hospital train for Kroonstad, and arrived there soon after midnight. No. 4 was originally a small train on the East London line used by the 3rd Division. A short time ago Sir John Furley proposed to add fresh carriages, and to place it on the same footing as our other hospital trains. The beds are arranged in three tiers instead of two as in older trains. I had to admire the general arrangements, but I questioned if the cots were safe, and if they were broad enough. I do not consider the train large enough at present; it has only 72 cots, so I have asked to have one or two more carriages added to it.

13*th June*.—I inspected all the hospitals and their surroundings, and I found everything in a most satisfactory condition. The general sanitary condition of the town and surrounding country has been placed on a more satisfactory footing than it was at my previous visit. I found there was very little sickness locally, and the majority of the enterics which were brought into Kroonstad when the place was taken by our troops were convalescent. I visited the following hospitals.

Russian Dutch Ambulance, situated in a school house with some attached buildings. At my last visit I moved as many sick as I could without injuring the patients to other hospitals, as I did not consider the care and attention, and many minor details, equalled our hospitals. I found at my present visit that Lieut.-Colonel Wood, Principal Medical Officer, Kroonstad, and in charge of No. 3 General Hospital had carried out my instructions, and so there were very few patients, and those not fit to be moved.

Kroonstad Hotel, this is under the management of the surgeons of the Scotch Hospital, and this also has been evacuated as much as possible.

Grand Hotel, the patients here (with the exception of one man) are all officers down with enteric or dysentery, with two exceptions. All the officers had separate rooms and are very comfortable and well looked after. The Scottish Red Cross Hospital is pitched on a rising ground close to the railway station to the west of the town. The tents are of tortoise pattern and are well equipped. The bedsteads are not suitable for camp life, they are ordinary iron bedsteads with castors, and they take a long time to be got ready. All the surgeons are very anxious for pure surgical work, but I give the Staff every credit for their great assistance in meeting the strain caused by the late outbreak of enteric.

No. 3 General Hospital is situated very close to the railway line and on the north side of the railway station. It is well placed on a rising ground, unfortunately it is in the line of fire in the event of any attack on Kroonstad. I don't know of any other suitable site in or near the town, and the large number of enterics forbid the moving of this hospital. It is much safer to risk the chance of an attack. At the time of my visit I found 50 officers and 720 men sick in all the hospitals. I noticed about 100 enterics on solid food fit to travel to Cape Town for England.

Left Kroonstad at 8.30 p.m. in No. 4 Hospital train and got as far as Ventersburg Road when we were stopped, as it was reported that a large party of Boers were down South blowing up the line. We had to remain all Thursday, and till 1.30 p.m. Friday before we could continue our journey. On arriving at Zand River we learned the particulars of the action of the day previous. At 5.0 a.m. the Boers attacked on three sides. At 10.0 a.m. the attack ceased. I met Major Lougheed, Royal Army Medical Corps, of No. 2 General Hospital, who arrived from Bloemfontein a few hours before me, and he recommended the wounded to remain for the present, and he filled up the vacancies in the train with men in the early stage of fever. Arrived at Bloemfontein at 11.0 p.m., 15th instant.

I 12899.—3. 50.—7/1900.

18*th June*.—Since my arrival here I have been inspecting the various hospitals. There is a steady flow of recoveries and invalids out of all the hospitals, and our numbers are rapidly coming down.

On account of the unsatisfactory condition of the Welsh Hospital at Springfontein, I sent Lieut.-Colonel D. Edge (who is at present employed inspecting lines of communication south of Bloemfontein to Norvals Pont in addition to his own duty as Principal Medical Officer, 3rd Division). He reports there has been friction between Major Cockerill and the Staff of the Hospital. I am waiting for the correspondence before I give my opinion, but Lieut.-Colonel Edge does not consider Major Cockerill has shown sufficient tact in his dealing with the Staff.

19*th June*.—Received a telegram from Commandant at Springfontein stating that Professor Jones, of Welsh Hospital, died last evening, and that the second Surgeon, Dr. Lynn Thomas, wished his hospital to be attached to the half section of No. 3 General, instead of being under Major Cockerill, further, if this could not be done he would resign. I wired at once to place Welsh Hospital, subject to approval of Commander-in-Chief, with No. 3 General. If I hesitated to do this I would have lost the services of this hospital.

20*th June*.—Orders received from Commander-in-Chief to send up Irish Hospital to Pretoria. I issued necessary order at once. I have arranged to go to Pretoria to-morrow, taking with me No. 2 General Hospital, which has been waiting here for some days. Also No. 2 Stationary (for Johannesburg) which has been waiting for orders at Kroonstad for some time.

In addition to the 19 nurses of No. 2 General I am taking 13 others, according to telegraphic instruction. I understand that nurses are not required at Johannesburg, so all these nurses will go to Pretoria.

There are at present over 60 cases in Irish Hospital, many unfit to be removed. I have directed the Principal Medical Officer, No. 9 General Hospital, to remove to his hospital all fit to be removed, and to supply necessary personnel to attend to those unfit for removal; these latter to remain in beds and tents of Irish Hospital, Captain Mould, Royal Army Medical Corps, remains in Bloemfontein.

I understand the Irish Hospital must close end of next month.

21*st June*. — Surgeon-General Wilson, Colonel Duke, No. 2 General Hospital, left Bloemfontein this morning for Pretoria, they pick up remainder of No. 2 General Hospital at Kroonstad; a considerable quantity of medical and surgical stores are being sent up with them for the front. No. 2 Advanced Depôt Medical Stores is ready packed up at De Aar, and will be pushed to the Transvaal as soon as railway transport becomes availabe.

Half No. 6 General Hospital is packed up at Naauwpoort ready to go on to the Transvaal as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
W. G. A. Bedford,
Major, for P.M.O. Army, South Africa,
(absent on duty).

Bloemfontein,
7th July 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz.:—

23*rd June* 1900.—Line again cut above Kroonstad, thus preventing No. 2 General Hospital and the Surgeon-General from proceeding northwards from that place, where they have been stopped.

The "Kildonan Castle" left Cape Town with 50 officers and 1,386 men invalids for England.

Moved up four civil surgeons and six nursing sisters from here to Kroonstad to help in No. 3 General Hospital.

28*th June*.—Remainder of No. 2 Stationary Hospital left East London for Johannesburg; the "Spartan" takes over duties of Base Hospital at East London.

4*th July*.—No. 13 General Hospital arrived; it is detailed to Wynberg, to take the place of No. 2 General Hospital moved to Pretoria.

As the St. John's Ambulance men of the Van Alen's Hospital are now time expired, steps have been taken to replace them; this hospital is with the 1st Division in the neighbourhood of Heilbron.

I wired to the Surgeon-General at Pretoria, asking if I should push up more hospitals and medical store depôts; following answer received: "I urged that "Portland and Langman's Hospitals be ordered to Pretoria; was told that no "more hospitals are required, and that for next fortnight I am not to ask for "any railway accommodation."

I despatched 21 nurses north, seven for Johannesburg and 14 for Pretoria.

5*th July*.—Sent six more nurses to Johannesburg by ambulance train.

The greatest difficulty is now being experienced in the evacuation of invalids to the base, owing to the lack of railway transport; the railway authorities can neither supply engines or carriages in sufficient numbers.

The number of patients in Bloemfontein and Kroonstad cannot therefore be reduced, as it should be, to make room for fresh admissions from the surrounding country.

No. 17 Field Hospital has been ordered from Kroonstad to Heilbron to form a temporary stationary hospital there, and 50 sets of beds and bedding complete are being despatched to that town.

A court of inquiry has been ordered to assemble at Springfontein to investigate the cause of the dissensions at the Welsh Hospital.

No. 2 Advanced Depôt of Medical Stores has now been ordered to move from De Aar to Pretoria.

Lieut.-Colonel H. L. Battersby has been ordered from Orange River to Bloemfontein to take the place of Surg.-Lieut.-Colonel Lake, Mil. M.S.C., in charge of No. 10 General Hospital; the latter officer being dangerously ill with nephritis.

I have, &c.
W. G. A. BEDFORD, Major,
for P.M.O. at Pretoria.

I 12899—2. 50.—7/1900.

STATEMENT showing the DATES of EMBARKATION of Medical Officers, Civil Surgeons, Nurses of the Army Nursing Service, Nurses of the Army Nursing Service Reserve, Quartermasters, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and of the St. John Ambulance Brigade; exclusive of the Civil Surgeons, Nurses of the Army Nursing Service Reserve, and Men of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, employed by Voluntary Organisations.

War Office, July 1900.

Date.		Medical Officers.	Civilian Surgeons.	Nurses, Army Nursing Service.	Nurses, Army Nursing Service Reserve.	Quarter-masters, Royal Army Medical Corps.	Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, Royal Army Medical Corps, St. John Ambulance Brigade.
1899.							
September	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
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	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
	13	1	—	—	—	—	—
	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	1	—	—	—	—	—
	16	3	—	—	—	—	—
	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18	1	—	—	—	—	—
	19	3	—	—	—	—	—
	20	9	—	—	—	—	—
	21	1	—	—	—	—	—
	22	3	—	—	—	—	—
	23	3	—	5	—	—	—
	24	4	—	—	—	—	—
	25	1	—	—	—	—	—
	26	2	—	—	—	—	—
	27	2	—	—	—	—	—
	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30	6	—	—	—	2	58
October	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	6	—	8	1	1	90
	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	1	—	—	—	—	—
	9	1	2	—	—	—	21
	10	—	—	3	—	—	—
	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14	4	1	—	—	—	—
	15	1	—	—	—	—	—
	16	1	2	—	—	—	—
	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18	1	—	3	—	—	—
	19	—	—	—	—	—	21
	20	11	10	—	—	1	~~92~~ 93
	21	26	—	—	—	4	203
	22	12	—	—	—	1	35
	23	17	2	—	—	1	93
	24	11	—	—	—	2	137
	25	4	—	—	—	—	—
	26	3	—	—	—	—	—
	27	3	—	—	—	—	38
	28	6	1	8	5	1	7

a 12899.—34. 50.—8/1900.

Date.		Medical Officers.	Civilians Surgeons.	Nurses, Army, Nursing Service.	Nurses, Army Nursing Service Reserve.	Quarter-masters, Royal Army Medical Corps.	Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, Royal Army Medical Corps, St. John Ambulance Brigade.
1899.							
October	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30	4	—	—	—	—	—
	31	—	—	—	—	—	—
November	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
	2	4	11	—	—	2	157
	3	16	—	—	—	—	58
	4	18	12	8	1	3	336
	5	7	—	—	—	—	58
	6	2	—	—	—	—	—
	7	5	—	—	—	1	35
	8	5	1	—	—	1	35
	9	7	—	—	—	1	35
	10	5	—	—	—	—	58
	11	3	4	—	—	—	—
	12	—	1	—	—	—	—
	13	—	1	—	—	—	—
	14	—	1	—	—	—	—
	15	5	—	—	—	1	145
	16	1	—	—	—	—	—
	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18	—	—	8	1	—	—
	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
	21	—	3	—	—	—	—
	22	2	—	—	—	—	37
	23	—	—	—	—	—	—
	24	9	1	—	—	—	116
	25	1	—	1	5	—	—
	26	2	—	—	—	—	—
	27	—	—	—	—	—	—
	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	2	—	—	—	—	—
	30	5	—	—	—	1	35
December	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	10	1	1	1	1	93
	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	—	2	—	—	—	—
	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	1	—	—	—	—	—
	9	2	—	—	—	—	—
	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
	13	6	—	—	—	1	35
	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16	4	2	—	—	—	~~85~~
	17	8	—	—	—	—	35
	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
	19	—	1	—	—	—	—
	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
	21	2	5	—	—	—	—
	22	5	2	—	—	—	63
	23	1	—	—	10	—	—
	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
	26	—	—	—	—	—	—
	27	—	—	—	—	—	—
	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	5	15	—	—	—	85
	30	—	1	1	18	—	—
	31	—	—	—	—	—	—
1900.							
January	1	4	—	—	—	1	35
	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
	3	6	2	—	—	—	133
	4	12	1	—	—	—	93
	5	1	—	—	—	—	—

Date.		Medical Officers.	Civilian Surgeons.	Nurses, Army Nursing Service.	Nurses, Army Nursing Service Reserve.	Quarter-masters, Royal Army Medical Corps.	Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, Royal Army Medical Corps, St. John Ambulance Brigade.
1900.							
January	6	6	—	—	—	—	—
	7	8	—	—	—	—	93
	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	1	—	—	—	—	35
	11	—	5	—	—	—	—
	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
	13	6	2	—	—	—	—
	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	1	1	—	—	—	—
	16	—	11	—	—	—	—
	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18	1	2	—	—	—	—
	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20	3	8	1	10	—	2
	21	4	1	—	—	—	116
	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
	23	—	3	—	—	—	—
	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
	25	—	1	—	—	—	—
	26	—	—	—	—	—	—
	27	3	1	—	—	—	40
	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
	31	—	1	—	—	—	—
February	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	2	6	—	—	—	10
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
	7	—	1	—	—	—	—
	8	3	—	—	—	—	58
	9	1	—	—	—	—	—
	10	2	3	1	8	—	18
	11	1	1	—	—	—	—
	12	1	7	—	—	—	—
	13	1	1	—	—	—	—
	14	6	6	—	—	—	145
	15	—	1	—	—	—	—
	16	—	1	—	—	—	—
	17	2	3	1	39	—	35
	18	2	—	—	—	—	—
	19	—	5	—	—	—	—
	20	7	2	—	—	—	110
	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
	23	10	4	—	—	—	~~28~~ 180
	24	—	1	1	8	—	—
	25	—	2	—	—	—	—
	26	—	—	—	—	—	—
	27	—	1	—	—	—	—
	28	2	26	—	—	—	—
March	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
	3	1	3	1	19	—	—
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	—	3	—	—	—	—
	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	5	9	—	—	1	134
	9	—	1	—	—	—	—
	10	2	2	—	—	—	—
	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	1	4	—	—	—	134
	13	1	—	—	—	—	—
	14	1	7	—	—	—	—
	15	1	1	—	—	—	—
	16	~~2~~ 3	—	—	—	—	—
	17	~~8~~ 12	—	—	20	—	221

Date.		Medical Officers.	Civilian Surgeons.	Nurses, Army Nursing Service.	Nurses, Army Nursing Service Reserve.	Quarter-masters, Royal Army Medical Corps.	Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, Royal Army Medical Corps, St. John Ambulance Brigade.
1900.							
March	18	1	2	—	—	—	—
	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
	21	1	—	—	—	—	—
	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
	23	—	—	—	—	—	—
	24	10	40	—	70	1	134
	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
	26	—	7	—	—	—	—
	27	—	—	—	—	—	—
	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	—	1	—	—	—	—
	30	—	1	—	—	—	—
	31	2	—	—	—	—	11
April	1	1	8	—	—	—	160
	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	—	2	1	—	—	125
	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14	1	6	—	20	—	—
	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16	—	10	—	—	—	—
	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18	1	4	—	—	—	—
	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
	22	—	1	—	—	—	—
	23	—	—	—	—	—	—
	24	1	2	—	—	—	215
	25	—	3	—	—	—	—
	26	—	4	—	—	—	—
	27	—	3	—	—	—	—
	28	—	4	—	—	—	—
	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
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	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	—	1	—	—	—	—
	9	—	1	—	—	—	—
	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	2	5	—	—	—	—
	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	1	—	—	—	—	—
	16	—	4	—	10	—	130
	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18	—	1	—	—	—	—
	19	—	6	—	—	—	—
	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
	21	—	1	—	—	—	—
	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
	23	1	1	—	—	—	146
	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
	26	—	5	—	5	—	35
	27	—	—	—	—	—	—

Date.		Medical Officers.	Civilian Surgeons.	Nurses, Army Nursing Service.	Nurses, Army Nursing Service Reserve.	Quarter-masters, Royal Army Medical Corps.	Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, Royal Army Medical Corps, St. John Ambulance Brigade.
1900.							
May	28	—	1	—	—	—	—
	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
	31	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
	2	—	—	—	50	—	—
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	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	—	4	—	—	—	—
	7	—	1	—	—	—	—
	8	—	5	—	—	—	35
	9	—	—	—	35	—	—
	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	—	2	—	—	—	—
	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16	11	6	—	—	—	145
	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
	19	—	1	—	—	—	—
	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
	21	—	2	—	—	—	—
	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
	23	—	—	—	—	—	—
	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
	26	—	4	—	22	—	—
	27	—	—	—	—	—	—
	28	8	1	—	—	—	153
	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30	—	2	—	20	—	—
July	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
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	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18	—	1	—	1	—	100
	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
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	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
	23	—	—	—	—	—	—
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	27	—	1	—	—	—	—
	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
	31	—	—	—	—	—	—
							168 Various dates. Trooping parties and Army Corps and Divisional Staffs.
		476	385*	52	379	28	~~5,216~~ 5,361

* The nine consulting surgeons are not included in this list.

Statement showing the dates on which additional Medical staff (civilian surgeons) were applied for, and, in the case of those requisitioned for from S. Africa, the dates of their embarkation.

Date of Application from S. Africa or of obtaining Secretary of State's authority for their employment.	Number of Civil Surgeons	Date of Embarkation.
1899		
27th September	20	
2nd October	48	
8th December	30	
1900		
2nd January	50	
30th "	50	
3rd February *	12	28th Feby/00
4th March	50	
11th March *	40	From 24/3 – 1/4
3rd April *	30	— 16/4 – 11/5
24th April *	24	— 8/5 – 6/6
15th May *	10	— 6/6 – 11/6
8th June	14	
(To replace deaths & resignations)	7	
Total.	385	

NB. Those to whom an asterick is affixed were asked for from S. Africa, the others were sent out on the initiative of the Director General A.M.S.

The above information was forwarded to S. Africa on 15.9.00
-copy in 4823/7/1018

EMBARKATION of QUARTERMASTERS, WARRANT OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, and MEN, Royal Army Medical Corps and St. John Ambulance Brigade, for South Africa.

Date.		Quarter-masters.	Other Ranks.	Designation of Details embarking.	Remarks.
1899.					
Sept.	30	2	58	Field hospital and part of stationary hospital.	
Oct.	6	1	90	Part of general hospital.	
	9	—	21	Hospital ship "Spartan."	
	19	—	21	" " "Trojan."	
	20	1	93	Bearer company and field hospital.	
	21	4	203	Bearer company, field hospitals (3), stationary hospital.	
	22	1	35	Field hospital.	
	23	1	93	" " and bearer company.	
	24	2	137	Field hospitals (2), reservists*(52).	* For stationary hospital 30.9.99, and general hospital 6.10.99.
	27	—	38	Part of general hospital (No. 3).	
	28	1	7	Base depôt medical stores (No. 2).	
Nov.	2	2	157	2 advanced depôts medical stores, stationary hospital, and part of No. 3 general hospital.	
	3	—	58	Bearer company.	
	4	3	336	Bearer companies (2), stationary hospital, general hospital, and field hospital.	
	5	—	58	Bearer company.	
	7	1	35	Field hospital.	
	8	1	35	" "	
	9	1	35	" "	
	10	—	58	Bearer company.	
	15	1	145	General hospital.	
	22	—	37	"Princess of Wales" hospital ship.	
	24	—	116	Nucleus 17 bearer company (3), bearer company, draft (55) St. John Ambulance brigade.	
	30	1	35	Field hospital.	
Dec.	2	1	93	Field hospital, bearer company.	
	13	1	35	Field hospital.	
	17	—	35	" "	
	22	—	63	Bearer company and "Maine" hospital ship.	
	29	—	85	Field hospital and draft (50) St. John Ambulance Brigade.	
1900.					
Jan.	1	1	35	Field hospital.	
	3	—	133	General hospital.	
	4	—	93	Bearer company, field hospital.	
	7	—	93	" "	
	10	—	35	Field hospital.	
	20	—	2	Warrant officers' general hospital.	
	21	—	116	Part of general hospital (No. 6).	
	27	—	40	Stationary hospital.	
Feb.	3	—	10	Part of general hospital (No. 6).	
	8	—	58	Bearer company.	
	10	—	18	Draft from Malta - - -	For No. 8 general hospital.
	14	—	145	General hospital.	
	17	—	35	Field hospital.	
	20	—	110	General hospital.	
	23	—	180	Field hospital* and general hospital* -	In response to telegram asking for personnel for general and field hospital.
March	8	1	134	General hospital - - -	
	12	—	134	" "	
	17	—	221	Bearer companies (2), field hospitals (3).	8th division.
	24	1	134	General hospital.	
	31	—	11	Detachment for St. Helena.	
April	1	—	160	Drafts - - - -	In response to telegram for 500 from Lord Roberts, 15.3.00.
	6	—	125		
	24	—	215		

a 12899.—19. 50.—7/1900.

90.

Date.	Quarter-masters.	Other Ranks.	Designation of Details embarking.	Remarks.
1900.				
May 16	—	130	Drafts - - - -	In response to telegram for 300, 25.4.00 (balance with trooping parties).
23	—	146		
26	—	35	Field hospital - - -	St. John Ambulance Brigade, for Rhodesia.
June 8	—	35	" " - - -	Volunteers, for Rhodesia.
16	—	145	General hospital - - -	In response to a telegram dated 30.5.00, for 2 more general hospitals.
28	—	153	General hospital and 8 specially enlisted compounders.	
July 18	—	100	Draft - - - -	Sent at our suggestion.
4.4.00—27.7.00.	—	113	Trooping parties - - -	Retained in South Africa for duty.
Various -	—	55	Army corps and divisional staffs.	
Total -	28	~~5,216~~ 5,161		

TABLE asked for in QUESTION XIV. herewith.

It would be very difficult to give the relative numbers of male nurses and bearers at any particular date, owing to the constant advancement of privates to higher grades of orderlies and promotion to non-commissioned rank as they qualified and circumstances required. (*See* last paragraph of reply 13.) At the present time our 1st and 2nd class orderlies in South Africa are proportionately less than at the beginning of the war, while the number of 3rd class has very largely increased.

This has been caused by the promotion of the best men to be lance-corporals and corporals, although during the war a large number of 3rd clsss have steadily improved in nursing capacities and are now graded as 2nd class, and others of the 2nd class have been advanced to the 1st.

All the Volunteers and Militia Medical Staff Corps were graded as 3rd class when they went out. The table below gives approximate numbers at the present time :—

Male nurses	1st Class Orderlies, Royal Army Medical Corps	592
	2nd " " " " " "	653
	1st Grade (St. John Ambulance Brigade)	558
	Total	1,803
Bearers	3rd Class Orderlies, Royal Army Medical Corps	1,760
	2nd Grade (St. John Ambulance Brigade)	667
	Total	2,427

The 2nd Grade St. John Ambulance Brigade and 3rd Class orderlies may be considered bearers, but have no doubt had to do nursing duties as well.

The earlier embarkations took all the trained men of the corps who could be spared. The later men were principally composed of St. John Ambulance, volunteers, &c. (*See* reply 13.) Large number of bearers have been engaged locally.

Medical Arrangements of an Army Corps and a Cavalry Division.

I. Army Corps.

An army corps is composed of 36,259 officers and men of all ranks and is divided into :-

(a) Corps Troops - 6,157 officers and men.

(b) 3 Infantry Divisions - each of 10,034 officers and men. A division is subdivided into 2 infantry brigades (each of 4,346 officers and men) and a body of divisional troops (1,275 officers and men.

The detail of the several units under (a) and (b) is as follows :-

(a) Corps Troops.

Corps Staff.

1 Cavalry Regiment, and the head-quarter squadron of another.

Regimental Staff, Corps Artillery.

1 Brigade Division, Horse Artillery.

2 ,, Divisions, Field Artillery.

Corps Troops Ammunition Column.

Ammunition Park.

Regimental Staff Corps Engineers.

1 Pontoon Troop.

1 Telegraph Division.

1 Balloon Section.

1 Field

From this point on, left side pages are blank and have not been digitised.

1 Field Company.

1 Field Park.

1 Railway Company.

1 Infantry Battalion.

Corps Troops Supply Column A. S. Corps.

Supply Park ,,

Field Bakery ,,

Field Hospital R. A. Medical Corps.

(b). Infantry Division.

Divisional Staff.

2 Infantry Brigades, each composed of -

1, Brigade Staff.

4, Infantry Battalions.

1, Supply Column.

1, Bearer Company.

1, Field Hospital.

Divisional Troops:

1, Squadron of Cavalry.

1, Brigade Division, Field Artillery.

1, Ammunition Column.

Regimental Staff, Divisional Engineers.

1, Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Supply Column.

Field Hospital.

The

The detail of the Medical Service with an Army Corps is as follows :-

With the Corps Staff.	3 Officers	10 N.C.O's and men.		
,, ,, 3 Divisional Staffs.	6	,,	15	,,
,, ,, Cavalry Regiments.	2	,,	-	(a)
,, ,, Horse Artillery.	1	,,	-	(a)
,, ,, Field Artillery.	5	,,	-	(a)
,, ,, Ammunition Park.	1	,,	-	(a)
,, ,, Royal Engineers.	5	,,	-	(a)
,, ,, Infantry Battalions.	25	,,	-	(a)
,, ,, Army Service Corps.	6	,,	-	(a)
,, ,, Bearer Companies.	18	,,	348 N.C.O's & men.	
,, ,, Field Hospitals.	50	,,	350	,,

(a) 1 N. C. Officer and 1 private from these units are placed at the disposal of the officer Royal Army Medical Corps in charge of the unit.

II. <u>Cavalry Brigade.</u>

A Cavalry Brigade is composed of 2,497 officers and men who are allotted to the following units -

Staff.

3 Cavalry Regiments.

1 Battery Royal Horse Artillery.

2 Companies Mounted Infantry.

Supply column.

Bearer Company.

Field Hospital.

The medical details of the foregoing are as follows :-

	Royal Army Medical Corps.	
With the 3 Cavalry Regiments.	3 Officers	(a) men.
,, ,, Battery R. H. A.	1 ,,	(a) ,,
,, ,, Bearer Company.	3 ,,	58 ,,
,, ,, Field Hospital.	5 ,,	35 ,,
Total.	12 ,,	93 ,,

(a) 1 N. C. Officer and 1 private is detailed from each unit and placed at the disposal of the medical officer in charge.

I. Should it be considered desirable to form a cavalry division special orders are issued on mobilization as to the number of brigades which shall compose it.

Copy.

DIARY.

From the

Principal Medical Officer,

Field Force,

South Africa.

To the

Director General,

Army Medical Service,

War Office, London, S. W.

15th July, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the following continuation of my diary, - viz:-

1900.

6th July. Surgeon Lieut.Colonel J. Creagh, 9th King's Royal Rifles, died on way from Vilgeon's Drift to Kroonstad from Enteric Fever this day.

Lieut. Colonel Gubbins, Principal Medical Officer, 6th Division, is appointed Inspector of Sick Transport on the Lines of Communication between Kroonstad and Orange River, in addition to his other duties.

8th July. Staff of 3rd Division proceed from Bloemfontein to Elandsfontein for Lines of Communication.

Lieut: Colonel Battersby arrived from Orange River

River to take charge of No. 10, Geneva Hospital, vice Surgeon Lieut:Colonel Lake who is dangerously ill.

9th July. Surgeon General Wilson returned from Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Court of Enquiry under Major General Knox at Springfontein on dissensions at Welsh Hospital, and charges made by Staff against Major Cockerill Royal Army Medical Corps.

10th July. Chief of Staff wired an order that no more ambulance trains are to proceed north of Kroonstad for present and his permission must be given before they proceed at all.

12th July. No. 6 General Hospital arrived En Route to Johannesburg from Naauwpoort; it is unable to proceed owing to pressure on railway, nothing but supplies, clothing, and boots being allowed to pass up at present.

13th July. No.6 General Hospital still detained.

Surgeon Lieut:Colonel, W.Lake, Militia Medical Staff Corps, died of Nephritis at St. Michael's Home.

21st June. Left Bloemfontein with personnel and most of equipment of No. 2 General Hospital. A part of

Equipment

Equipment is still at Cape Town unable to get on, and a part is in advance at Kroonstad.

22nd June. Arrived at Kroonstad and learned that we could not proceed as the line is threatened by a large force of Boers; we were consequently detained at Kroonstad till 29th June, when the Chief of Staff passed me north with personnel only of No.2.Stationary, which has been detained for a considerable time at Kroonstad. The Hospital equipment was not allowed to accompany us, supplies were of more importance at the front. During my detention at Kroonstad I visited all the Hospitals and found the patients doing well; and I noticed a large number of convalescents from Enteric all fit to be sent to England if we could only get transport.

I had the few remaining patients removed from the Russian Dutch Ambulance as the Staff of this Hospital was anxious to leave; and we had a large number of vacant beds in one of our Hospitals.

Kroonstad Hotel Hospital is practically closed as all patients have been removed from it with the exception of Dr. Robertson who I found dangerously ill with Enteric. There now only remains the Dutch Church Hospital, The Grand Hotel for sick Officers; and half of No. 3 General in tents and Scottish Hospital in tents and huts.

On

On account of the position of Kroonstad in regard to the force operating north east of Orange River Colony, I arranged to evacuate all invalids for England to base at Cape Town.

I may state here there is a Hospital of about 200 beds at Winburg, and I am establishing another at Heilbron. There is not much sickness at Kroonstad itself; but the troops operating in the country round send in considerable numbers.

I have no doubt but that Kroonstad will in time become very unhealthy on account of our camps and hospitals being practically on the collecting ground for its water supply. I am keeping this in view.

30th June. Arrived in Pretoria at 8 p.m. and next day inspected the Hospitals in Boys and Girls Schools, also what is called The Bourkes Hospital, this latter has been used as a Boers Hospital during the War. I found the Irish Hospital in the Law Courts which makes a splendid Hospital, and it can accommodate 500 cases. This building has been equipped by local purchases and Irish equipment added.

I called on Commander-in-Chief and drew his attention to the fact that personnel of No. 2 General Hospital had arrived without its equipment and I pointed out that this Hospital was urgently required.

2nd July.

2nd July. Continued my inspection and selected ground for camp of No. 2 General Hospital. It is a lovely slope to East of town and close to railway line to Delagoa Bay.

The Royal Engineer made contracts at my request for the usual buildings as Pack Store, Cook house &c. for a General Hospital.

4th July. I again drew attention that No. 2 General Hospital Equipment was at Kroonstad.

5th July. Left for Johannesburg with Lieut:Colonel Dorman Royal Army Medical Corps.

6th July. Inspected Hospital arrangements and found everything fairly satisfactory. The sick are all accommodated in buildings, and all the patients were well supplied with capital beds and good bedding.

The Johannesburg Civil Hospital is fine and was fairly full of our sick. The Victoria Hotel was rather crowded and I arranged for fewer beds. Masonic Hall and Wesleyan Church were neat and well managed. The Wanderers Club and grounds is well suited for a Hospital, and I am moving half of No.6 General Hospital into it.

No. 2 Stationary takes over Masonic Hall and

Wesleyan

Wesleyan Church.

In Johannesburg as well as Pretoria I found a large number of convalescents from Enteric on solid food, I arranged for evacuation to base.

6th July. Left for Pretoria.

7th July. Called on Commander-in-Chief and Chief-of-Staff promised to bring up at once equipment of No. 2. General Hospital.

8th July. Left for Bloemfontein.

9th July. Arrived in Bloemfontein.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obdt.Servt.

W. D. Wilson.
Surg. Genl.
P.M.O., Army.

Copy.

Diary.

From the
Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force,
South Africa.

To the
Director General,
Army Medical Service,
War Office, London, S. W.

21st July, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the following continuation of my diary :- viz:-

1900.
14th July. Lieut:Colonel D. Edge, relieved Lieut:Colonel Dorman as Principal Medical Officer, Lines of Communication, Kroonstad to Pretoria; the latter is being posted to a new division being formed by General Hamilton. Lieut:Colonel Dorman had ceased to be Principal Medical Officer of 9th Division on that formation being broken up some little time ago.

17th July. No. 6 General Hospital at last got on towards Johannesburg after waiting here, since 12th Instant. Surgeon General Wilson went up with it.

No. 3 Ambulance train proceeded to Kroonstad taking

taking tents and mattresses for a rest camp for invalids. A very large number of Civil Surgeons are required for the many posts protecting our Lines of Communication it is necessary to have a Surgeon with detachments of three or four hundred men, as these are liable to be attacked at any time; it is these duties more than hospitals that absorb the large numbers now in South Africa.

The Portland Hospital has sold its equipment the Ordnance Department on recommendation of Principal Medical Officer buying several of the tortoise tents and beds. The staff will shortly return to England. The two non-commissioned Officers, Royal Army Medical Corps, who came out with the hospital are being retained for duty with the Army. Since No.13, General Hospital landed at Cape Town, and took over the buildings &c. occupied by No.2 General at Wynberg; it has been found by the schedules received from the War Office that this hospital was intended for Natal, General Officer Commanding, Lines of Communication, has been directed that No.14 General Hospital is to go on to Natal on arrival at Cape Town.

No. 2 Advanced depot Medical Stores still unable to get up from De Aar to Pretoria. The greatest difficulty is being experienced in getting hospital

services

services pushed up the line, and invalids for the Base down, owing to lack of engines and rolling stock, and the pressing Military requirements of food, remounts, ammunition &c.

18th July. Major Cockerill who had resigned his appointment with the Welsh Hospital, took over charge of Stationary Hospital at De Aar, thus releasing Major Meek who is for duty on the Hospital Ship "Maine".

Lieut: Colonel R. W. Barnes in charge of No. 9 General Hospital has been placed on the sick list suffering from Asthma, and Bronchitis. Major Barrett assumes charge.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) W. G. A. Bedford.

Maj.

for P.M.O. F.F.

(Army).

Copy.

Diary.

4823/7/989

From the Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force,
South Africa.

To the Director General,
Army Medical Service,
War Office, London, S.W.

29th July, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary viz :-

1900.
19th July. No. 6 General Hospital arrived Johannesburg.

22nd July. Advanced Depot Medical Stores leaves De Aar for Pretoria.

23rd July. Line again cut at Honing Spruit; thereby delaying hospital train and stores for Pretoria and Johannesburg. Lieut. Colonel R.M.Barnes leaves Bloemfontein invalided to Base. Major Drury, who was the Officer in Charge of Langman Hospital was to-day removed from that appointment in consequence of a written request from the Staff that this might be done. I quite appreciate and concur in the reasons which led the Staff to prefer this request. Major Drury has been transferred to No.10 General Hospital under Lieut. Colonel Battersby.

24th July. Line to the North open again. No. 2 Depot Medical Stores passed on towards Pretoria. No. 2 Hospital Train with 14 trucks attached taking all the remaining

remaining equipment of No. 2 General Hospital up from Wynberg, left for Pretoria. Lieut. Colonel Gubbins, Principal Medical Officer, 6th Division, has been ordered up to Pretoria. The 6th Division has practically ceased to exist as a division, being split up into independent bodies; the help of a Senior Officer was urgently needed at Pretoria and so Lieut. Colonel Gubbins was taken. Major Skinner remains with Lieut. General Kelly Kenny who is Commanding Lines of Communication between Orange River and Kroonstad and the few remaining details of 6th Division.

Both the Warrant Officers of No.2 General Hospital viz. Wakefield and Wheeler, have been promoted to Quartermaster one has been ordered down to Wynberg for No.13 General Hospital, and Sergeant Major Bush from Guards Brigade Field Hospital, has been ordered to No. 2 General Hospital. It is most difficult to keep the ranks adjusted in the several units; many units are detached in distant portions of the country, and no returns or communications are received from them for many weeks together, and to change individuals from such units to others is not practicable. Every effort is made as occasion offers to balance the ranks, but it is an almost impossible task under the present existing circumstances.

25th July. Surgeon Major Kilkelly and remainder of staff of Portland Hospital left Bloemfontein for Base.

No.17 Field Hospital transferred from Heilbron to Krugersdorp, the former town being evacuated. We had sent up a number of bedsteads with bedding complete, all kinds of hospital equipment to make a stationary hospital at Heilbron and now as soon as it is got there, after great trouble the place is evacuated.

26th July. The Langman Hospital left Bloemfontein for Pretoria.

27th July. Directed Surgeon Major Kilkelly, Grenadier Guards who was with the Portland Hospital to return from Cape Town and proceed to Johannesburg to take charge of the new Yeomanry hospital, Surgeon Major Kilkelly placed his services at the disposal of the Surgeon General for this purpose. He was badly needed owing to the paucity of Military Medical Officers. It is hoped that some of those officers who have been invalided home will soon be sent out again. There have been many blocks on the line, thus delaying the passage of personnel and hospital stores up north.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) W.G.A.Bedford.

Major R.A.M.C.

for Principal Medical Officer,

Field Force.

"Away on duty".

C O P Y.

Diary.

4623 / 7 / 1011 A

From the
Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force,
South Africa.

To the
Director General,
Army Medical Service,
War Office,
London, S.W.

4th August 1900.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the following continuation of my diary viz.,

1900.
30th July. Captain Anderson and Lieut: Fuhr left here for Pretoria, as did also No.3 Ambulance Train for Johannesburg. The train taking up 20 Nursing sisters and 20 details Royal Army Medical Corps for Johannesburg and Pretoria.

News received of General Prinsloo's surrender with 5,000 Boers in the neighbourhood of Fouriesburg. A quantity of Medical and Surgical material forwarded by Ambulance train to No.4 Advanced depot, Kroonstad.

31st July. Steps being taken to relieve Lieut: Colonel Valvey from Norvals Pont upon the urgent recommendation of the General Officer Commanding. A special report will be furnished later. There has been a Court of

Enquiry

Enquiry at the hospital mess of the Convalescent Camp at that station.

Received authority from the Chief of Staff to forward a large number of Marquees, and a considerable quantity of hospital clothing and bedding to Pretoria and Johannesburg. I at once placed myself in communication with the Ordnance Department to effect this. Lindley was evacuated a short time ago by our troops, and Captain Longhurst who brought most of the sick away from there to Kroonstad, reports that the Boers destroyed most of the hospital records; six sick too ill to move were left in charge of Doctor Lutock, a German Surgeon, who agreed to look after them. Mr Kieckhaefer formerly Quarter Master of the Boer Ambulance at Lindley, is returning thither with medicines and comforts for the few remaining sick.

Lieut; Colonel Keogh passed through Bloemfontein "en route" to Pretoria where he is to take charge of No.2 General Hospital vice Colonel Duke, who will relieve Lieut; Colonel Keogh in charge of the section of No.3 General Hospital at Springfontein. The Welsh Hospital arrived at Bloemfontein on its way to Pretoria from Springfontein; but is detained here, as it cannot be passed up at present by the railway authorities.

1st August. Issued orders for Major Moffett to proceed

from

from Orange River to Norvals Pont to relieve Lieut; Colonel Palvey; this latter Officer to remain at Norvals Pont until Court of Enquiry is concluded.

2nd August. The Welsh Hospital is still detained here as the railway authorities cannot get it up. I telegraphed to the Chief of the Staff asking to have priority given it, as we want hospitals in Pretoria.

No.2 Advanced depot Medical Stores (Captain Whitestone, Royal Army Medical Corps) arrived at Pretoria from De Aar, and commenced work.

3rd August. The Stationary Hospital at Orange River has now been closed; in the future the sick from the small garrison remaining there will be sent to De Aar or Deelfontein.

The Welsh Hospital is still unable to get on to Pretoria, and the remainder of No.15 Field Hospital to Elandsfontein.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) W.G.A.Bedford, Maj.,

for P. M. O.,

F. F., South Africa.

COPY.

Diary.

From the
Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force,
South Africa.

To the
Director General
Army Medical Service,
War Office,
London, S.W.

Bloemfontein,

11th August 1900.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz.,

1900
th August.

Orders came from Chief of the Staff that half of No.15, Field Hospital about to proceed to Elandsfontein was to detrain at Rhenoster, and the remainder only to go on to Elandsfontein. I had previously received a wire from Senior Medical Officer of the 5th Brigade to the effect that he had no field hospital and that fighting was expected 14 miles west of the railway at Rhenoster. It appears that this brigade upon marching out from Heidelburg did not take its field hospital. I have been unable to elicit the reason for this.

th August.

The garrison of Dewetsdorp with the exception of 50 men is to come to Bloemfontein together with the hospital establishment which was left behind by No.16

Field

Field Hospital. It has been arranged that a local practitioner "Doctor Krantz", should look after the few remaining troops, and to receive ten shillings a day, supplying his own medicines &c., one private Royal Army Medical Corps and two regimental orderlies have been detailed to remain in a house with the few sick who are unable to be moved.

The Welsh Hospital and No.15 Field Hospital have now left Bloemfontein; the former for Pretoria, and the latter for the destinations previously mentioned.

6th August. No.5 Hospital Train left tonight for Pretoria; it conveyed the nursing sisters of the Welsh Hospital, and also considerable quantities of Red Cross Stores. Surgeon Major Kilkelly, Grenadier Guards also proceeded in it to Pretoria; as it has now been decided that No.2 Yeomanry Hospital is to be located there instead of Johannesburg.

Received a telegram from Principal Medical Officer, General Hunter's Force at Bethlehem, that Civil Surgeon Engelbach, who had treked from Bloemfontein with a wagon load of medicines, surgical materials, and comforts had arrived and that nothing more was required. The hospital at Smithfield has been closed, consequent upon the removal of the garrison. Major Shine, Royal Army Medical Corps, and Civil Surgeon Copland came in

with

with the Irish Rifles from there. Harrismith occupied; 23rd Field Hospital there.

Colonel Duke assumes duty at Springfontein, vice Lieut; Colonel Keogh who proceeded to Pretoria.

9th August. I had telegraphed to Chief of the Staff requesting permission to send up two portable disinfectors which the Surgeon General had wired for from Pretoria as urgently required. The Ordnance Department have them ready to despatch; but I received a wire from the Chief of the Staff regretting that owing to heavy urgent traffic demands now on hand conveyance for the disinfectors cannot possibly be sanctioned at present; the application may be renewed in ten days time. We already have orders that not more than one ambulance train is to go north of Bloemfontein each week; we have to trust almost entirely to Ambulance trains to carry up, not only all our Medical and Surgical supplies to the front, but also for the bulk of ordnance supplies required for the hospitals in advance of here; thus tents, marquees, bedsteads, bedding and the numerous articles of equipment required for furnishing hospitals, have to be crammed into the ambulance trains, as well as Nursing Sisters and other hospital personnel being pushed up to the front.

Under such circumstances it is frequently quite impossible to meet all the demands made by the

hospitals

hospitals north of here, as promptly as could be wished.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) W.G.A.Bedford, Maj.,

for P. M. O.,

F. F.

Diary.

P.M.O.F.F./20/00.

From
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force,
South Africa.

To
The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
4823/7/1032 War Office, London, S.W.

Bloemfontein.
August, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the following continuation of my diary, viz:-

Visit to Transvaal.

Left Bloemfontein 7.P.M. Tuesday 17th July taking with me No.6 General Hospital which I propose to leave at Johannesburg.

19th July arrived at Pretoria at 12.30.p.m. I called on Commander-in-Chief and asked him to telegraph to England for Surgeons, Nurses and Orderlies, as the lines of communication are daily lengthening out, and fresh Hospitals must be established. On the 19th and 20th I went into the question of future requirements in Pretoria and I concluded that the steps already taken were insufficient, and the entire scheme of Hospital service in Pretoria required alterations. In a memorandum addressed to the Chief-of-Staff I pointed out the fact, that No.2 General Hospital left Cape Town

on

on 1st June for Pretoria, and that up to date 12 wagons of equipment only have arrived, and 12 wagons are unaccounted for, the latter no doubt are hid away on some siding up the line. This non-arrival of very necessary equipment renders No.2 almost useless. Finally I got orders issued ordering up these missing trucks, also for tents and more equipment. On account of the very narrow margin of vacant beds I sent several hundred invalids to Bloemfontein.

I inspected the following Hospitals in Pretoria.

1st Palace of Justice. This is a large and beautiful building, recently built for the Law Courts. It lends itself naturally to the requirements of a Hospital, and has been equipped by a body called "the Medical Commission" which was formed soon after the occupation of Pretoria. Large sums have been expended and Sir W.Thomson, with Irish Hospital, has been put in charge. As the Irish Hospital has only personnel for 100 beds I had to supply additional personnel. There are 480 beds fully equipped. The drawback is that this hospital is in the middle of the town, and away from the railway.

2. The Bourke Hospital. This existed previous to our occupation of Pretoria, and has been used on account of the number of small rooms almost entirely for Officers. The nursing personnel are all from

Pretoria.

Pretoria. A Royal Army Medical Corps Officer has been placed in charge.

3. I next visited three Hospitals called Model School 1, 2 and 3, Nos. 1 and 2 are capital buildings having large airy wards, and they are in every way suitable for Hospitals. I found it necessary to make many alterations especially in No.1. Here I found some of the best rooms occupied as stores &c., while the small and badly lighted rooms were wards. This has been altered. The yards round No.1 and 2 were crowded with tents and untidy, I had the personnel accommodated in neighbouring houses.

No.1 (or boys school) has 160 beds. No.2 (or girls school) has 215 beds. I found No.3 used by a Dutch Ambulance. The houses and grounds were dirty and badly kept and all the arrangements bad. I facilitated their leaving and I handed over the buildings to some unemployed members of the Yeomanry Field Hospital and to some of our own personnel. In a very few days No.3 became an excellent Hospital but its getting ready entailed great labour. It can accommodate 160 sick.

4. Artillery barracks. This is a large and beautiful building on the outside but the wards are dark and general appearance of Hospital is bad. There are 300 beds. The personnel is from Major Franklin's Field Hospitals.

5. Race Course. 260 beds, here there is only one fine large ward the remainder is not good. It is worked by a Bearer Company.

6. Civil Hospital "Volks". There are 40 beds mostly used by Officers. One Royal Army Medical Corps Officer in charge and he directs the Civil Staff of attendants. This works well.

To augment the above Hospital accommodation, and to shut up some of the buildings ill suited for Hospital work, I made the following arrangements. In addition to No.2 General Hospital which is situated on a plain to the East of the town on the railway line to Delegoa Bay, I ordered up Langman Hospital, and the Welsh Hospital. These are no longer required on lines of communication, I have arranged to raise these two Hospitals from 100 beds to 150 each.

They are to be pitched on same plain as No.2 General Hospital.

On the same plain a camp of 300 convalescents is being organized. The Yeomanry Hospital of 400 beds is also diverted to Pretoria from Johannesburg. For use of this Hospital a beautiful country house in North East direction has been taken. The house will accommodate 60 patients and 340 will be accommodated in tents. I gave orders to evacuate Artillery Hospital by train to No.2 General as quickly as possible. This was safely done under my own personal observation. The race course

Hospital

Hospital was also evacuated, reserving only one large fine ward to be used as a reception ward, for troops quartered in that neighbourhood.

The Bourke Hospital is also being evacuated.

The remaining Hospitals all in first rate order can accommodate over 2,300 sick.

Visit to Johannesburg.

Left Pretoria on 24th July and arrived same afternoon in Johannesburg. I found the following hospitals in fair working order.

1. Victoria Hotel. This was converted into a Hospital almost immediately after occupation of the Town by our troops. One Royal Army Medical Corps Officer in charge. Civil Surgeons do the ward work. Nurses engaged locally. The orderlies come from a Bearer Company and are assisted by Regimental orderlies. The attendants are about double what we usually employ in our regular Military Hospitals.

I have arranged that this is to be closed as soon as I can make other arrangements. Present accommodation is 195 beds.

2. Jewish School 90 beds, Jewish Ambulance 24 beds. These buildings are not well suited for Hospital work, and they are to be vacated.

3. French Hospital. This is a small ambulance organized during the war. The doctors are one Polish

Jew

Jew and one Italian. They have treated a few sick Officers, and some English prisoners before we entered the Transvaal.

4. Masonic Hall 100 beds. This is fairly satisfactory as an extemporised hospital.

5. Wesleyan Chapel 50 beds. This makes a nice bright ward. No.6 General Hospital has taken over the Wanderers Club and large grounds and is rapidly getting into order. The Hospital however is hampered by so much of its equipment being at Naauwpoort, and I find it almost impossible to get absolute necessaries up country.

7. A large well equipped Civil Hospital gives us 350 beds.

I found about 1300 sick and convalescents in the different Hospitals. We cannot discharge our sick when cured as quickly as we can in peace times; for discharge from hospital now means sleeping on the ground with very little shelter. Accompanied by General Officer Commanding I visited some railway sheds and settled to take over one to be used as a convalescent camp and placed under a Commandant. The shed was made comfortable by the addition of about 300 mattresses. I returned to Pretoria 27th July and remained there getting the Pretoria Hospitals into better order daily. I had however so much delay and difficulty in getting up everything necessary for the Hospitals, that

that I had to remain in Pretoria much longer than I had originally intended. I moved up the Medical Depot from De Aar to a house close to railway station. Placed a small hospital at railway station, for reception of sick from some of the posts on the railway. Small parties frequently come at night, these are at once received into the railway hospital and are next day passed on to the larger Hospitals.

I moved Lieut.Colonel Gubbins from 6th Division at Bloemfontein and appointed him Principal Medical Officer, Pretoria, as a temporary measure. By order of Commander-in-Chief I ordered Colonel Duke to Springfontein and lines of communication there, and brought up Lieut.Colonel Keogh to take charge of No.2 General Hospital. This Officer has military charge of Langman and Welsh Hospitals in addition to his own duties in No.2 General Hospital and convalescent camp. These three hospitals with convalescent camp are all close together on a fine plain with a good slope down to the Eastern line of railway. Water has been laid on by means of a pipe from the town, the water is excellent and is above suspicion.

4th August, I left for Johannesburg by 8.40.a.m train and arrived at Elandsfontein where I was met by Lieut.Colonel D.Edge and I enquired into Medical arrangements at Elandsfontein. There are two Civil Hospitals not very far from the Station namely "Simmer and Jack" and "Primrose", the first has 42

beds

beds and second has 23. They are the property of mines of the same name. They suit our purpose admirably; but the number of beds is not sufficient. I therefore directed 15 marquees from Pretoria and 100 beds from Johannesburg with other equipment from Ordnance, to be sent to Elandsfontein. The personnel consists of half No.15 Field Hospital and some other details.

A convalescent camp of 1000 men is being in course of formation. Having inspected Elandsfontein I went on to Johannesburg which I found in a most satisfactory condition. No.6 General Hospital was in working order, the Victoria Hotel was almost empty, Jewish Ambulance has been evacuated and the remaining Hospitals were in good order.

I visited the convalescent camp in railway goods shed and I found it a thorough success.

7th August, I returned to Pretoria and noticed increased activity on the line to the East so I detailed Colonel Stevenson to visit Fabrieken and Middelburg and to establish Stationary Hospitals there. At Fabrieken 50 beds are required and at Middelburg about 200 of these 40 are there at present, and I sent out 130 more with marquees &c. Nursing Sisters were also detailed to both Hospitals.

I may here mention that I have lately raised in Cape Colony 150 Volunteer bearers. These are being distributed to the Bearer Companies in the

Field

Field Army.

15th August, Left Pretoria for Bloemfontein and arrived at last named place at 10.p.m. 17th Inst.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd) W.D.Wilson. Surg.Genl.

P.M.O. Army.

Diary.

From the Principal Medical Officer,

South African Field Force.

To the Director General,

Army Medical Service,

London.

Bloemfontein,

29th Sept. 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the following continuation of my diary.

9th Sept. 1900. Left Bloemfontein 6.30 a.m., for Pretoria; arrived at Ventersburg Road 5.30 p.m., and left next morning for Kroonstad, arriving about 9.30 a.m. Visited No. 3 General Hospital and the Scottish Red Cross Hospital.

10th Sept. 1900. Saw Dr. Dodgson who was engaged in examination of the water supply. There had been some heavy rain, and after this Dr. Dodgson found the Bacillus coli communis in the drinking water, and a bacillus, undistinguishable by ordinary methods from the bacillus typhosus.

The

The water supply here is taken from the Valsch River; pumped up to a high point and after filtration, is distributed by gravitation. Dr. Dodgson states that the filter beds are imperfect and very unsatisfactory.

Kroonstad stands on the right bank of the river, which here forms a long curve. There is a dam above the town and the river (which is almost dry below the dam) is a long stagnant pool above it. The camp is to the N.W. of the town, and on higher ground. The whole of this ground slopes gently to the river from above the camp, and the surface drainage falls into the river above, around, and below the part from which the water is pumped. The surface drainage from the town falls in below the intake. This condition of things is extremely dangerous, and cannot continue, for not only does all the ordinary surface washing of a military camp, with the droppings of horses and oxen, pass into the water supply, but it also receives washings from the Enteric Fever Camp. The result of Dr. Dodgson's examination of the water indicates how dangerous this condition is.

Discussed this matter with Mr Pritchard, a boring expert. He is not sanguine as to the prospect of obtaining a good supply by boring. He obtained a

small

small supply at about 60 feet deep; there is a better chance of a good supply below the coal measures which lie comparatively deep, but at about 990 feet in a bore made near the town, he did not get water.

The only other possible source is a shallow valley north of the town where there is a spring and a series of pools. The catchment area is small and the water is probably mainly surface water. The supply is not sufficient for a large camp.

I have always considered that on account of the water supply, Kroonstad would be a very dangerous position for a military camp after the onset of the rains and the beginning of the Enteric Fever season. Some certain means of purification must be employed, either an efficient system of boiling or (probably safer) distillation.

11th Sept.1900. Left Kroonstad by No.3 Hospital train at 9 a.m. I inspected the Stationary Hospital at Germiston (Simmer & Jack). Found E.P. tents in use there; these are much more satisfactory for a stationary hospital than hospital marquees, there is more floor space; the roofs do not catch the wind so much and it is easier to arrange for satisfactory ventilation by altering the flies. Arranged to send four more Nursing Sisters. Arrived Vereeinging and remained the night.

12th

12th Sept.1900. Arrived Pretoria at 1.30 p.m. Visited No.1 Model School and Major Ford's hospital (No.3.)

13th Sept.1900. The P.M.O. Pretoria has established a Rest Hospital of about a dozen beds in a small house close to the station, for the reception of any odd cases arriving by rail. There are good beds and bedding, efficient cooking arrangements with a large supply of comforts. In addition to the care of the sick, the establishment feeds a large number of healthy men passing through for whom no other arrangement exists. Lieutenant MacNab, R.A.M.C. is in charge and practically lives on the premises.

The advanced Depot of Medical Stores is in two houses close to this. It is well supplied with stores for the front.

Visited the Irish Hospital in the Palace of Justice. It has none of the smartness which characterizes the military hospitals in this country, and is even actually dirty. In the smaller wards, there was a distinct smell of unaired bedding. From correspondence brought to my notice, I found that they were allowing the patients to leave the hospital to visit the town practically at any hours and for any time. The P.M.O. Pretoria had given orders for this to cease, with which I agreed.

Visited

Visited No. 2 General Hospital and the convalescent Camp in the afternoon with Lieut.Colonel Gubbins. On the eastern side of the line to Delagoa Bay, and about two miles from the station on the slope of a ridge overlooking the town are the following hospitals. Convalescent Camp, No. 2 General Hospital, Welsh Hospital and the Langman Hospital. These are beautifully laid out, the site is perfect, and, as the railway passes immediately in front of this hospital camp, patients can be brought in or removed with the greatest ease. The Imperial Yeomanry Branch Hospital is on the same ridge but higher up; it is partly in a Mr Beckett's House a fine building. The Convalescent Camp has I.P. tents, a double fly shouldari with a wall about 18 inches high. These hold six men comfortably. The men have mattresses. The ration is certainly sufficient, as they have about 1¾ lbs. of bread and 1¼ lbs. meat daily in addition to bacon, eggs, and other extras.

14th Sept.1900. Saw Ordnance Officer with regard to supply of tents for Elandsfontein and Pretoria. Asked for 30 E.P. tents for Elandsfontein and odd requirements along the Eastern line.

Visited Race Course hospital. Only three European patients in the main building, which is very

satisfactory

satisfactory. There is a small infectious hospital close by and the lunatic asylum is in the vicinity. Visited these establishments in the afternoon with Lieut. Colonel Gubbins.

Received (and acknowledged) a wire from Colonel Cayley offering the Scottish Red Cross Hospital as a gift to the Army.

Sent 4 Nursing Sisters to Elandsfontein by 12 train.

15th Sept. 1900. Visited house selected for hospital for Nursing Sisters, on high ground near the railway not far from Howitzer Camp.

16th Sept. 1900. Left for Machadodorp about 5 a.m. in a covered bogie and arrived there late at night. The country along this Eastern line is well watered, and there is a fair amount of wood, air fresh and bracing.

17th Sept. 1900. Visited small hospital at Machadodorp in charge of Major Power, R.A.M.C. He has no Civil Surgeon. It is established in corrugated iron huts (lined with match boarding) belonging to the hotel, and partly in hospital marquees. He has three marquees in reserve. In the hotel huts are one ward (2 beds) for Officers, and four small wards, one containing only one bed, the other two each, one larger ward containing 8 beds. In an adjoining hut (of the same type) are 14

beds

beds or 31 beds in huts. Five hospital marquees each contain 8 beds, one single fly Boer tent not unlike a store tent, containing 12 beds, making in all 51 beds. He has a sufficient supply of bedding.

The camp is well situated on the side of a small valley, about 5,000 feet above the sea level.

Major Haywood and Captain Morphew are at present at Machadodorp with the former Bearer Company.

I saw Lord Roberts with regard to sites of permanent camps at the termination of the campaign, and received orders from him. On my representations regarding the unsatisfactory water supply at Kroonstad, and the difficulty of getting any by boring, with the probability of a serious outbreak of Enteric Fever as soon as the rains set in, he decided not to occupy it permanently. He decided that the cantonment at Bloemfontein should be proceeded with at once. He proposed to make permanent stations at Pretoria, Johannesburg, Heidelberg (or more probably) Standerton, and probably at Heilbron.

Went on to Waterval Boven in the Princess Christian train and returned at once to Middleburg where the train remained all night.

18th Sept.1900. Left Middleburg about 7.30 a.m. and arrived at Pretoria about 3 p.m. Saw Major Geddes at Balmoral,

Lieutenant

Lieutenant Hart at Bronkhurst Spruit. There is little sickness along the line, a few cases of Dysentery and Enteric Fever here and there. The men look fit. There is no complaint of deficient supplies.

19th Sept. 1900. I inspected the hospitals in the Schools. No. 1 under Major Cummins, No. 2 Captain Anderson. No. 3 Major Ford. In the last are wards for officers, these are very nice. For the men, there is one good ward (with eighteen beds) in the old gymnasium belonging to the school. In the building are a number of small wards each containing two beds. Their condition is satisfactory, although the building is not well suited for use as a hospital. The houses stand in a very nice garden which is much appreciated by the patients.

No. 2 is in the School House an excellent building, with large and high rooms; it forms an exceedingly good hospital.

No. 1 is in the Model School and is in many respects similar to No. 2. It has a well fitted operating room.

In Nos. 1 and 2, kitchens and annexes have been built outside, those in No. 2 are not yet completed.

The system for the disposal of slops and enteric excreta is the same in all. The slops, collect-

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collected in zinc pails, stand in a covered shed, of corrugated iron with concrete floors and curb. The pails are emptied once daily. Chloride of lime and Izal are freely used. Enteric stools are brought direct, and emptied into a boiler beneath which a fire is constantly burning and are boiled. The product is sterile and there is practically no odour from the process although the compound looks very offensive. The odour can only be detected over the boiler itself. The fire is allowed to go out at intervals of a few days and the sterile mass is ladled out and disposed of with the other excreta.

In connection with No. 1, is an establishment for supplying sterilized fresh milk to the hospitals. The milk is supplied by the A.S.C. Each hospital sends in the number of cases of Enteric Fever and Dysentery, for whom fresh milk is required, and the available milk is distributed pro rata, morning and evening, according to the quantity required. The method employed is as follows. The milk is placed in large square tin vessels; these are put in rectangular boiler (partly filled with water) heated by a furnace below. The highest temperature reached is said to be 75° C., and this is maintained for ten minutes. Boiling point of water in Pretoria is about 95° and

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the temperature of 75° affords only a small margin of safety especially as the volume of milk is large, and no method of stirring is pursued during the heating process. To the distant hospitals, the milk is sent out in covered cans.

In the afternoon, I inspected the Yeomanry Branch Hospital in Becketts House, on the ridge to the east, about 200 feet above the town. This is a magnificent house and forms a most satisfactory hospital. The majority of the sick are in marquees in the grounds, but a certain number of men, and some officers occupy the house. All the arrangements are excellent. Milk is sterilised on the premises.

I also visited the Nurses quarters, and the Nurses Hospital, both situated in detached villas on the same ridge, but a little below. Both are very satisfactory.

20th Sept.1900. Left Pretoria 12.30 p.m. en route for Bloemfontein. Detained at Meyerton all night.

21st Sept.1900. Arrived at Kroonstad about 6 p.m.

22nd Sept.1900. Left Kroonstad about 4.30 a.m. arrived Bloemfontein about 5.50 p.m.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedt. Servant,
(Sd.) W.D.Wilson, Sgn.Genl.
P.M.O.Field Force,
South Africa.

From
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force,
South Africa.

To
The Director General,
Army Medical Services,
War Office, London, S.W.

Pretoria,
31st October, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the following continuation of my Diary:-

1st October. Arrived in Pretoria, visited Irish Hospital in Palace of Justice and arranged with Lieut.Colonel Gubbins P.M.O. Pretoria, that no more sick should be sent there and that all fit to be moved should be sent away to other Hospitals, in order to give the Staff that I have detailed to take over charge, a chance of cleaning the building and re-arranging the wards.

2nd October. Called on Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief. In reply to query why I would not vacate buildings in Bloemfontein, I replied that I am unwilling to lose a single bed, that considerable sums of money have been expended in arranging these buildings, and that they are all in very good order, the rains are now due, old residents say there may be floods, and the tent Hospitals

have

have a bad time - We must expect more sickness. The Field Marshal agreed with me.

In reply to query why I am detaining Civil Surgeons who demand to go home to their practice, I said I had refused all such applications as I can not reduce establishment till the Army is reduced.

He replied "Quite right ".

I drew attention to a demand that the Transvaal Police should have No.3. Model School as their Hospital or rather that its beds should be set apart for them. I said I could always give them beds but that it would hamper me too much to do as I have been asked, that the Police should go wherever there were vacancies. The C. in C. agreed.

Finally I was directed to personally arrange the taking over Palace of Justice Hospital, and remain in Transvaal for some time till things are settled.

The Scottish Red Cross Hospital at Kroonstad is to be taken over by R.A.M.Corps on 13th October.

Wrote to Military Secretary recommending a step in local rank to Lieut. Colonel J.D.Edge, Lieut.Colonel Donovan, Lieut.Colonel Allin, and Lieut.Colonel Gubbins.

Wired to P.M.O. Base to hand over a hospital Ship going to England to Staff of Scottish Red Cross Hospital about 18th October. The Staff consists of Colonel Cayley I.M.S., 5 Civil Surgeons, 20 Students and 15 nurses.

3rd.

3rd October. General Knox commanding at Kroonstad has wired up a most unfavourable report of Scottish Red Cross Hospital at Kroonstad, and asked to have it placed under No.3. General Hospital; I quite agree with Genl.Knox as to the condition into which this Hospital has fallen, for I visited it on my way up to Pretoria: I did not say much as it is to be handed over on 13th instant. I have given orders to stop all fresh admissions, that the staff I have already ordered up is to move into the Hospital and commence to take over - that all sick fit for removal be sent to Bloemfontein. I consider it will take a week to put the place in anything like order.

4th October. Made very short visits to the various Hospitals with exception of Irish Hospital and I found everything most satisfactory. I consider the Military Hospitals at Pretoria and the General Medical arrangements to be as nearly perfect as is possible.

5th October. Called on Field Marshal C. in Chief to report my departure to Natal. He said Transvaal Police asked for Palace of Justice, and as he would shortly reduce the Strength of Troops he asked if I could meet the wishes of Police, as I have about 3,000 beds in South Africa available over and above those occupied, I agreed but said I must have more Train Service, this the C. in Chief sanctioned.

The weather is hot but healthy no signs of rains.

Consulted

Consulted Military Secretary to C. in C. relative to the justice of my remarks in annual confidentials on Officers No.6. Gen.Hospital. He said that the C. in C. took my harsh view of the matter in preference to the view of Generals Wavell and Kelly.

Left Pretoria travelling in No.3. Hospital Train, Major Russell R.A.M.C. in charge:on arrival at Klandsfontein we halted for night as trains now only travel by day. I inspected Hospital at Germiston about ½ mile distance from Klandsfontein railway station. There are 400 beds fully equipped. The nucleus of this Hospital is "Simmer and Jack" Civil Hospital Major James and Staff of No.2. Stationary, assisted by Civil Surgeons, Nursing Sisters and Regimental Orderlies, carry on the duties. The Tents are Hospital Marquees and Indian E.P.Tents. These latter are the best tents I have seen, they easily accommodate 8 beds while 6 are enough for one Hospital Marquee. The Indian E.P. stand the storms extremely well, much better than any other tents in South Africa, but their weight 600 lbs is an argument against them.

I found the Hospital at Germiston working well. The rest camp for 1,000 men is also a success.

6th October. Left Klandsfontein at day-break and remained for short periods at the following stations. The Medical Officers met my train and all made good reports. I was not able to visit these Hospitals, viz:-

Heidelburg

Heidelburg ------- ½ 4th Bde. Field Hospital.

Standerton ------- ½ 4th Bde. Field Hosptl. & No.4. Station Hospital.

Pardekop --------- ½ 2nd Bde. Field Hospital.

Volkrust --------- 2nd Div. Field Hospital.

Wakkerstroom ----- ½ Field Hospital 11th Bde.

Utrecht ---------- ½ do do.

7th October. Charlestown. This is a beautiful and healthy situation, altitude 5.300 feet. The Hospital is No.1. Stationary, raised to 400 beds, is on a slope looking west. The water supply comes in pipes from the foot of Majuba Hill and is very good. There is one house used for sick officers, the remainder of sick are in Indian E.P.Tents. The Hospital is well equipped and well conducted. It differs I believe from every other hospital in South Africa in that the Medical Officer in charge seems to have ignored all other departments. He has made roads, bridges, built subsidary buildings, erected an oven and bakes bread for Hospital. He has a dairy formed by cows captured from the enemy. He also has a butchery. He is an energetic and most useful man in time of War, but his undoubted talents must rust in time of peace.

Staff Sergeant Gartland R.A.M.C. complained that he had been reprimanded and passed over for promotion on account of loss of his horse. This N.C.O's appeal is before Military Authorities and I can not take action.

I

I have enquired into the case as far as possible and it appears to me that he was simply "reprimanded" instead of being tried by Court Martial.

Left Charlestown 2.30 p.m. and arrived same day at Newcastle but too late to make any inspection.

8th October. Newcastle altitude 3800 feet. Inspected No.14 General Hospital under Lt.Col.Martin, R.A.M.C., situated on a gentle slope, near the Railway Station. The patients are all in E.P. tents and the usual tin huts are supplied for purposes of administration. There are only 520 beds.

Water supply is good, collected from hills N.E. of Newcastle. Arrived at Estcourt 11 p.m.

9th October. Inspected No.7. General Hospital. 920 beds. The Hospital is on excellent ground near the railway and like No.14 has E.P. Tents for sick, and huts for subsidiary buildings. Lt.Colonel Macneece in charge. About half the beds are empty.

Water supply comes from the river, is settled, and filtered, and is very good. Estcourt is said to be very healthy and Enteric is almost unknown but the altitude is only 3700 feet.

On my way to Estcourt I passed Ladysmith but did not visit it. From my observations out of the train I can not consider it a good site and it has an evil reputation.

At

At 4 p.m. on 9th I inspected No.4. General Hospital on Mooi river. It is situated on a beautiful grass slope, on opposite side of river to railway, in fact there is only a small narrow bridge leading from train side of river to Hospital; the Hospital like Nos. 7 & 14 consists of tents and huts. Altitude 4500 feet.

Water supply is fair and comes from the river. All drinking water is carefully filtered by a Pasteur filter. Number of Beds 920.

10th October. Left Mooi River 9 a.m., arrived at Howick 11 a.m. Inspected General Hospital (not numbered) half in huts and half in tents. There are 1,000 beds. Altitude of site 3400 feet. Major Westcott R.A.M.C. in charge.

At Howick there is a convalescent Depot for 50 Officers and for 1,500 men; also a non-dieted venereal Hospital of 150 beds. All in good order and working well.

At 4 p.m. I inspected Fort Napier Hospital, Maritzburg. There are 500 beds. This could not possibly be made a show hospital; it has served its turn and ought to be vacated. Unfortunately there is a large Depot at Maritzburg of about 2,000 men. I made a fairly close inspection of Maritzburg and I fail to see how it could ever have been selected as a site for troops. It is in a hole smothered by hills; its

altitude

altitude is 2100 feet only. It is hot and stuffy, and the attendants and patients had an anaemic appearance.

I advised P.M.O. Natal to treat most of sick from Maritzburg at Howick.

11th October. Visited Durban, inspected Medical Depot at railway Station. It is well supplied with medicine and medical appliances.

Visited Hospital Ships "Nubia","Princess of Wales" and "Orcana ", and found all in excellent order.

12th October. Left Durban for Pretoria by 6 p.m. train, arrived at Newcastle at 10 a.m. and learned that the railway near Standerton was torn up by the Boers. I remained at Newcastle till 10 a.m. 15th inst. and got through by first train.

Arrived Pretoria 7.30 p.m. 16th.

As I had several hours delay in Standerton I inspected No.4. Stationary Hospital. Personnel consists of Major Kirkpatrick and one R.A.M.C. Officer, one Quarter Master also Civil Surgeons and 14 Nursing Sisters, 40 N.C.Os. and men of R.A.M.C. 10 St.John Ambulance and 50 Imperial Hospital Corps; 250 beds are equipped.
The Hospital is in E.P. pattern Indian tents and these are well pitched on a gentle slope looking north.
Standerton is at an altitude of 5200 feet, it is liable to bad dust storms, its water supply is pumped from the vaal above the town and it is not above suspicion.
Enteric and Dysentery are prevalent.

Called

17th October. Called on C. in C. who informed me that I would have to remain in South Africa for present at least, that there could be no immediate reduction in number of troops.

I pointed out that my personnel was getting low and that I would require large increase if the troops take the field as an Army in the field. The C. in C. said it is most unlikely that the troops take the field as there is no Boer Army now.

18th October. General Buller has wired for Colonel Gallwey to be permitted to go home. I have agreed to this. Colonel Stevenson also asks to go home, I have agreed, but his Secretary must remain. I am seriously in want of R.A.M.C. officers. Many of them are in impaired health but do not like to go sick knowing how I am pressed. The enormous long lines of Communications use up a very large proportion of Medical personnel.

While I was away in Natal, orders were issued to vacate several buildings worked by No.10. General Hospital in Bloemfontein. I have now no margin of vacant beds.

I have had to give up Palace of Justice in Pretoria for use of Police. No.3. Hospital at Kroonstad has been greatly injured by a storm. I have therefore asked for No.7. General Hospital to be moved from Estcourt to Pretoria and I will try and move the Hospital at Standerton to Heidelburg.

I have, &c.,
(Sgd.) W.D.Wilson, Surg.Gen.
P.M.O. Army S.Africa.

From,
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To,
The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria,
22nd November, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the following continuation of my diary ;-

19th October — Lieut. W.H.S.Nickerson, R.A.M.C., reported his arrival at Bloemfontein this day having travelled from Ladybrand whither he had been sent by the Boers, having been released together with a party of mounted infantry who had been taken prisoners on the 19th August, and detained until the 11th September (vide report filed amongst the records).

21st October — Following telegram received from P.M.O., 1st Division, near Zeerust and transmitted to Surgeon General at Pretoria. "The men of this Division especially the Cavalry are beginning to suffer from the continued hard work, and exposure to sun, and constant hardship, with consequent loss of sleep. The sun is getting very hot, and the rains are expected. I expect a great

increase

increase of sickness if the men are kept at this work any longer. I would suggest wiring to the Commander-in-Chief."

Major C.E.Faunce left Pretoria for Cape Town on sick leave.

3rd October — Major Bedford, with Major Simpson and Quartermaster Pilgrim with the other clerks left Bloemfontein with the Office records &c., for Pretoria, in accordance with instructions from Army Head Quarters.

4th October — Surg. Lieut. P.Newman left Piensars River for Cape Town with Victorian Mounted Infantry.

5th October — The Office of the P.M.O., Army opened at Pretoria on this day.

7th October — Civil Surgeon Crispin and Nursing Sister Trew arrived at Kroonstad from Bethaville.

The Jewish Ambulance Section was discharged.

8th October — Lieut. Col. Macneese arrived in Pretoria from Estcourt, he has come up in advance of No.7 General Hospital.

9th October — Prince Christian died this morning at the Imperial Yeomanry Branch Hospital, of enteric fever.

Lieut. Col. Dorman proceeded to inspect the posts on the Eastern Line.

Colonel Duke, P.M.O., Lines of Comm^{n}, Springfontein started for Aliwal North with a view to inspecting Rouxville and Smithfield.

Civil

Civil Surgeon Squire ceased to be employed at Natal Spruit.

30th October — Lord Roberts left Pretoria for Johannesburg.

31st October — Nursing Sister Buchanan, A.N.S.Reserve, was permitted to resign her appointment in the Reserve, thereby agreeing to forfeit all claim to a passage home and to the gratuity under Art. 1258 A., Pay Warrant. She stated that she had an appointment at the Kimberley Hospital.

1st November — Col. Duke wires from Smithfield "1st November I have come here from Rouxville, have arranged about hospitals at both places. Will try to get to Dewetsdorp and Wepener tomorrow. Boers are on all the roads."

2nd November — Heavy rains have set in and the temperature is falling rapidly.

I have received bad reports about Lieut. Cols Reamish and Day in No.8 General Hospital. I consider it necessary to remove these two officers, the first will be sent for general duty to the base at Cape Town, and the second to the General Hospital at Springfontein.

Colonel Duke in charge, Springfontein, is reported ill, and Lieut. Col. Allin with local rank of Colonel is to take his place.

Colonel Donovan, P.M.O., Cavalry Division, reported arrival from S. East on his way to Johannesburg which is to be head Quarters of Cavalry Division.

Our

3rd November Our lines of communication are now so long and so many hospitals are required along all the railways in South Africa, that I find it difficult to meet all recent demands. I have also to provide personnel for a number of hospitals off the line of railways. Civil Surgeons whose period of service has terminated will not renew contract. Many more whose contract has not terminated have discovered most urgent reasons for going to England. The members of the C.M.S.Corps also demand their discharge. I am sorry for these latter, for while they have been on service others who would not assist the army are slipping back into all the good civil posts in Pretoria and Johannesburg.

th November Sent letter to Chief of Staff requesting that a cable be despatched to War Office asking that 200 R.A.M.C., be sent out as soon as possible, and intimating that further drafts will be required later. This was rendered necessary on account of the number of St.John's men who are completing their engagement both here and in Natal; also many of the local volunteers will shortly be taking their discharge.

Wired to P.M.O., Bloemfontein, directing him to send Capt. Tyrrell up here to work in my Office.

Ordered Lt. Col. Goggin up from Standerton; he being no longer required as the 2nd Division has been broken

broken up.

Telegram from Kaapmuiden states - "Health of troops, fair, 4 dysentery cases and 1 fever in hospital."

Civil Surgeon Yule, who was taken on general duty when the Edinburgh Hospital left, obtained the appointment of Health Officer at Bloemfontein and therefore ceased to draw Army Pay from 3rd November.

Civil Surgeons Brownridge, Barker and Smallman left Bloemfontein for Mafeking to join the 1st Division.

th November Asked Chief of Staff to arrange for Surg. Capt. Osborne and the Canadian Sisters to return to Canada with their contingent about 1st December.

Directed P.M.O., Base, to send up to Bloemfontein 4 Civil Surgeons and all available details of N.C.O. and men to be held there in reserve.

General Mahons cavalry Brigade broken up. The New South Wales Medical Corps which is with this Brigade is to remain with the Cavalry Division at present.

th November Ordered P.M.O., Machadodorp to send in Civil Surgeon Cowie, whose contract expires on 3rd December. The C.O., of the field hospital states that a relief is not required.

Civil Surgeon Fox Symons has been offered post of District Surgeon, Pretoria, and I have agreed to accept his resignation from this date.

Four

7th November — Four new regiments of mounted infantry are being formed and I am directed to send a Medical Officer to each. I will give the usual Medical and Surgical equipment for a regiment and also two Indian tongas.

8th November — Lieut. Hickerson reported his arrival from Bloemfontein and is posted to one of the new Mounted Infantry Regts. referred to in note of 7th instant.

9th November — Received a note from Colonel Gallway recommending reduction in the locally enlisted bearers called "Imperial Bearer Corps". I have wired instructions to Colonel Clery, P.M.O., Natal, to discharge 50 per cent of these bearers.

10th November — Orders issued for Lieut. Col. Goggin to take over No.8 General Hospital from Lieut. Col. Beamish, who will proceed to Base on being relieved. Lt. Col.J. Day to proceed from No.8 General Hospital, Bloemfontein, to Springfontein when relieved by Major Coutts.

Nursing Sister Garlick arrived at Pretoria for duty from Winburg.

Cabled to Director General asking him to extend Civil Surgeon Dodgson's (Bacteriologist) time until 6th January.

11th November — Received wire from General Barton strongly recommending the establishing of a stationary Hospital at Potchefstroom. Instructions were issued to Commandant

Elandsfontein

Elandsfontein to send detachment of 15 Field Hospital, at present at that station to Potchefstroom, P.M.O., at Elandsfontein retaining one non-comm^{d}. officer of the detachment.

General Barton was requested to direct Medical Officer to requisition on Johannesburg for beds and equipment, and to wire what nurses he could accommodate.

Orders issued for the Section of No.15 Field Hospital which was at Elandsfontein to proceed at once to Potchefstroom, to rejoin the major portion of the unit in order to establish a stationary Hospital at that station; equipment to be demanded from Johannesburg.

12th November — The Head Quarters of the Cavalry Division left Pretoria for Johannesburg. Colonel Donovan will therefore become P.M.O., of the Johannesburg District, and Lt. Col. Somerville Large will revert to the charge of No.6 General Hospital. Notification to this effect sent to him.

13th November — Orders issued to G. O. C. Middleburg to send "C".Company, Cape M.S.C., from Middleburg to join 19th Bde. Bearer Coy., under Major Michel at Belfast, that unit being much under strength.

Director General cabled asking if Colonels Supple and Anthonisz could be spared for service in India; the reply was in the affirmative, as it is

executive

executive officers that are required out here.

Major Porter and the Nursing Sisters of the No.7 General Hospital arrived at Pretoria from Natal.

Orders issued for Surg. Capt. Osborn and the Canadian Nursing Sisters to be in Cape Town by 30th November to be ready for embarkation with the Canadian Contingent.

15th November Orders issued for Major W.J.Baker attached to the Suffolk Regt., to relieve Major A.W.Ford in charge of No.3 Medal School. A Civil Surgeon from Pretoria to take over Medical charge of the Suffolk Regiment.

16th November Civil Surgeon Moorhead locally employed (arrived with Lumsdens Horse) permitted to go to service of I.M.R. for their construction train in the Eastern Line.

Civil Surgeon Thomson who left on 8th to embark on "Yorkshire" appears to have been detained at Maritzburg. To be sent on at once.

17th November Colonel Notter, R.A.M.C., called and related his experience on Eastern line down to Komati Poort. He consulted hospital records at Barberton and at Komati Poort. He found that Barberton is healthy but Komati Poort is very unhealthy especially in months January February and March. If this Eastern line is to be kept up and held by strong garrisons it will be necessary

to

to place an Hospital ship in Delagoa Bay.

Captain Marshall Commanding N.S.W. Bearer Coy., called and urged that his company may be allowed to return. I told him I would enquire when the N.S. Wales troops are to leave the country.

Engineer in Chief states that two or three huts are on their way up for No.7 General Hospital, that it is impossible to meet large demands owing to the difficulty of railway accommodation, but that huts for 300 beds will eventually come up for No.7.

Many N.C.O's. and men of Vol. M.S.C., Cape and Colonial are anxious to return home, to resume their ordinary employment. Owing to the increasing number of small hospitals, they cannot be spared yet.

The departure of Canadian Units about 1st December has been intimated, and this has been passed on to the various P.M.O's. along the Cape line.

P.M.O., Bloemfontein, has been asked to cause a Thresh's Disinfector to be sent to Elandsfontein at once.

P.M.O., Pretoria (who asked for one for No.2 Infectious Hospital) has been told to obtain one through the Ordnance from Bloemfontein where one is available.

The Ordnance can not supply E.P. tents for use along the Eastern Line as requested by Lt. Col. Dorman P.M.O., of that Line.

Major W.G.A.Redford, R.A.M.C., appeared

before

before an invaliding board yesterday, and proceeds to England via Durban shortly. His place has been taken by Major R.J.S.Simpson, R.A.M.C., and Captain Tyrrell, R.A.M.C., now acts as second secretary.

18th November Orders issued by wire for relief of Civil Surgeon MacEwen at Bulfontein Civil Surgeon Jones from Norvals Pont the latter to be relieved by a Civil Surgeon from Bloemfontein. It has become desirable to change the civilian staff at Norvals Pont.

Lord Roberts inspected Krugersdorp on Friday (16th) and was surprised to find no Nurses there. I informed him that the hospital was only Field Hospital lately equipped with beds and that serious cases were sent by hospital train to Johannesburg; that accommodation and servant had been asked for prior to sending sisters there, and that I was endeavouring to send sisters to all such hospitals. Wired urgently to P.M.O., Krugersdorp directing him to make necessary arrangements for four sisters at once, and also to Potchesfstroom (which had already been warned) asking for reply.

Owing to the indefiniteness of the information about the limits of General French's command it is difficult to arrange for the P.M.O., L. of C., in that neighbourhood, the boundary along the line between this and Blandsfontein is not yet very distinct.

P.M.O., Natal has no hospital ship at present available

available for Delagoa Bay. The "Oreana" will be available on arrival from England. She has been asked for, as I was asked whether it was necessary to send her out again. I asked for her so that either she or some other vessel, may go to Delagoa Bay.

The Inspector General, South African Constabulary asked to-day that his sick might be treated for the present in our hospitals. This has already been arranged for.

29th November Some time ago my attention was invited to using Permang. Pot. instead of Alum to precipitate suspended matter in water. I was informed that the water so treated was safe to drink and sterile. I placed the matter in the hands of Dr Dodgson (bacteriologist) and the following are his conclusions "that muddy water containing B Typhosis is cleared in about 5 hours, he failed to find B. Typhosis in the clear solution but the sediment contained the bacilli and in a very vigorous condition.

Dr Dodgson has been asked to continue his investigations for precipitating the mud and slime in the water so as to allow the latter to pass through the filter.

th November Nothing worth noting.

st November I hear from all sides that the Hospital Marquees

are

are showing signs of wear. I have asked the R.E., to inform me when I may expect the permanent huts up for some of the hospitals namely 7 and 8.

The C.O.O., informs me that he can not get up Ordnance Stores for hospitals.

(Sgd.) W.D.Wilson,

Surgeon General,

P.M.O., Field Force,

South Africa.

From
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force,
South Africa.

To
The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria,
28th November, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following in continuation of my diary:-

2nd November. Nothing of note.

3rd November. At my recent visit to Natal I gave orders to reduce the size of the hospitals there, as I considered 900 beds were too much for any separate charge, and should only be resorted to under pressure. As there were about 2,000 vacant beds in Natal, the order was carried out. This necessitated discharging of about 20 locally engaged nurses without the usual 3 years training. There is no work for them. I have no room on this side. They however wish to know why they are not permitted to serve their country. I have written to P.M.O. Natal stating that if I find I will want more nurses, that I will send

to

to him for some.

4th November. I have now considerable trouble in keeping the Medical Service effective, on account of the numbers of Civil Surgeons whose time has expired and who will not re-engage. Many of those whose time is not up, have discovered most urgent private affairs for their immediate return to England.

The New South Wales Medical Service also demand to return to their own country, and St. John Ambulance men leave us, as usual, just as they are trained.

The fact is, the war has lasted so long that all the excitement has died out and now only steady hard work remains, and this is not good enough for rising young medical men.

Fashionable interest in the welfare of the sick has also subsided.

Hospitals do not now get presents of fans and other luxuries though the conditions are practically the same, as we have just as many flies and the heat dust, &c. are present with us.

I have last month asked for 20 Civil Surgeons and 200 non commissioned Officers and men from England but I find I must make still more extensive demands.

25th November. Two locally engaged nurses have raised the question of our power to discharge them, as they say they

have

have been admitted to Army Nursing Reserve. One of these is said to be unfitted for social reasons, and the second has been discharged in Natal, as not fully qualified. My opinion is that nurses locally engaged can be locally discharged, when no longer required.

The general health of the troops in Crocodile Valley is most unsatisfactory. The unhealthy season in this "Valley of death" as the Boers have called it, has not yet set in. At present I can only evacuate the sick daily back to the healthy sites inland.

I have written to Chief of Staff pointing out that if troops must remain at Komati Poort, and other stations in the valley, that it will be advisable to bring a Hospital Ship round to Delogoa Bay.

I have asked Engineer in Chief if he could place mosquito netting over windows and ventilators of the huts at Komati Poort, so as to exclude as many mosquitoes as possible. I do not for one moment think we could induce a large number of men to live in mosquito proof huts, or even to try to do so, but my proposal may possibly lessen the numbers of mosquitoes in the rooms.

Asked C. in C. to cable for 30 more Civil Surgeons from England.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sd) M.D.Wilson,
Surgeon General.
P.M.O.Army.

DIARY.

4823
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1273

From,
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To,
The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria,

6th December, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary ;-

30th November Mr Hamilton Civilian Director Imperial Yeomanry called with an officer of Imperial Yeomanry and explained his financial position and expressed grave doubt at being able to keep up the Yeomanry medical establishments in South Africa for as long a period as these medical services may be required.

I find the personnel of Deelfontein Hospital will be due in England 10th February and the Field Hospital and Bearer Company on 15th March. The Pretoria Hospital will not be due in England till much later.

I pointed out that my recommendations with regard to Deelfontein were not carried out namely to reduce it if possible to 200 beds. It is too far from

Orange

Orange River Colony and from Transvaal. I re-stated my opinion about Deelfontein and said on account of the large number of convalescent Yeomen going home that it will be necessary to increase accommodation in Maitland Yeomanry Hospital.

1st December We have had a considerable amount of rain lately accompanied by storms and as a result many of our tents have been practically destroyed. The Royal Engineers seem unable to get up huts, for any of the Hospitals even for those that will become permanent. I have therefore estimated my almost immediate wants to Principal Ordnance Officer as 500 marquees.

The Sanitary Officer for Transvaal Dr Turner who was sent by Commander in Chief to Komati Poort has sent in a most voluminous report embracing an account of the Mosquito theory of malaria. His recommendations as to barracks - baths and sanitation generally were excellent and very suitable for permanent residencies. In addition he proposed that the troops should be placed in mosquito proof buildings and the experiment be conducted under supervision of a competent medical officer.

As the strength of garrison at Komati Poort is over 900 and as the men would have to go to bed at sundown I see difficulties in the way of making the experiment.

The

The Sanitary Officer also recommended that men on night duty should wear veils and gloves. I made no reference to this recommendation.

All the recommendations that were of a practical nature have been anticipated by me long before Dr Turner handed in his report to Commander in Chief.

2nd December. A considerable section of the railway between this and Klandsfontein has been washed away by floods. It is reported that it will take a week before the railway can be repaired. We are now cut off from the South and from Natal.

3rd December. Arrangements are being made to supply all the troops at Komati Poort with mosquito nets. The medical officer in charge will explain to the troops why the issue is made and it is hoped the nets may be used.

4th December. The hospitals continue to be full of sick and my entire establishment is fully occupied.

The first half of New South Wales hospital leaves at once and the second contingent is reduced to very few men. I find a difficulty in meeting all demands.

Civil Surgeons are leaving as time expired. The local Volunteer Medical Staff Corps also demand their discharge. The Yeomanry Hospitals will commence to close in about 3 weeks. I have asked for 20 Civil Surgeons

and

and later 30 in addition. None of these have arrived.

I know that 200 non-commissioned officers and men are on the way to this country and I have asked for a second contingent of same number to follow. I am trying to raise in Cape Town 200 Cape Medical Staff Corps to act as bearers in the Bearer Companies. I am very short of R.A.M.C., Officers to take charge of hospitals.

I have the usual railway difficulties I require wagons and tongas from Cape Town but can not get them up. I use hospital trains on their way up country filled with ordnance stores &c., for use of hospitals.

Storms continue to damage hospital tents.

Tortoise Tents

The tortoise tents brought out by private hospitals are useless for service in Transvaal. They did well enough in fair weather.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) W.D.Wilson,

Surgeon General,

P.M.O., F.F.

C o p y.

Diary.

P.M.O.F.F.
20
00

4823
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1222

From
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To
The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria, 14th December, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary :-

11th December. "In an interview with Adjutant General, relative to re-engaging St. John's Ambulance Brigade men in Natal on an increased rate - we agreed that the men must continue to receive the higher rate according to their agreement. It appears that the agreement was not made subject to Secretary of State's sanction.

The question of responsibility can be settled later on. In the mean time I am to discharge these men as soon as they can be spared (as no longer required).

12th December. Called by appointment on Lord Kitchener. He said he did not like so many hospitals at Bloem-

fontein

Bloemfontein and he asked me if I could not move them. I pointed out my difficulty, that Bloemfontein was the natural centre of a large military force, operating in Orange River Colony, that the hospitals have always been fully occupied - I have made already considerable reductions and I would be glad to do more, if I could find a safe good site in Orange River Colony.

I pointed out there is no more available ground suitable for a hospital, in Kroonstad - the town water supply there is bad; that Springfontein is only weakly held, and is not safe.

The Commander in Chief said he thought Norvals Pont might suit.

I will try and extend the Edinburgh Hospital, at Norvals Pont to 500 beds. This will necessitate railing sick from Bloemfontein.

I will reduce No. 9 General Hospital further, or remove it away entirely, and place a reception hospital on its site for 100 beds. No. 9 is the only hospital in Bloemfontein with a railway siding, hence the difficulty in vacating it entirely, as small parties of sick are constantly coming in from the many posts along the line.

I obtained authority to order a Hospital Ship from Durban to Delagoa Bay, in the event of Komati

Poort

Poort becoming very unhealthy or in event of railway being destroyed by enemy or floods".

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd). W. D. Wilson,

Surgeon General,

P.M.O. Army.

4823/7/1229.

C O P Y.

Diary.

From The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force,
South Africa.

To The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria, 21st Decr. 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following in continuation of my diary :-

15th Dec.1900. Called on Commander in Chief relative to Dr. Turner being sanitary Officer to the troops. He is Sanitary Officer to Transvaal and I really do not know his position with regard to the Army. Dr Turner has recently reported on health of troops in Crocodile Valley. His report was very long and his recommendations impossible and only suitable for men in permanent quarters. Some of his recommendations were simply impossible even in permanent quarters, namely that all men on night duty should wear veils and gloves and that those not on night duty should be housed in mosquito proof houses and of course retire to bed at sundown. Every suggestion that he made which were worth anything were anticipated long before his voluminous report was circulated. Lord Kitchener promised to enquire, and see if Dr. Turner had any standing or position in the Army.

My own opinion is that each and every

Medical

Medical Officer in the Army should be a sanitary officer and he should not be overlooked by any Civil Medical Officers. Very great attention has been paid under very great difficulties to sanitation.

Received a wire from General Smith Dorrien saying he would send C. Company, Cape Medical Staff Corps to Cape Town, as soon as possible. This company has not been a success and I would have recommended its disbandment long ago, but that I had nothing to replace it. The Company has served one year and latterly have been anxious to get away. I had wired to General Smith Dorrien that I did not require this company any longer.

16th Dec.1900. Surgeon Captain Temple Smyth called on his way through to Cape Town. He commands C.Company Cape Medical Staff Corps. He tried to explain to me the action of his company, in refusing to assist in hospitals and afterwards in agitating to obtain their discharge. He stated that an Officer explained to them on enlistment in Cape Town that they were only required for pure bearer work in the field.

As I am engaging more men in Cape Town now I wired to Recruiting Officer to make no such promise but that they must assist R.A.M.C. in all duties.

Principal

17th Dec.1900. Principal Medical Officer Natal has pointed out that I am removing so many of his Medical Officers and Civil Surgeons that he fears he will not be efficient. In reply I pointed out that he has 3,000 beds for a garrison of 12,000 men in Natal - that his hospitals are only partially occupied etc.

I directed him to be prepared to have a General Hospital ready to move to Elandsfontein in Transvaal.

I do not wish to touch the framework of rest of his hospitals but that I will reduce his R.A.M.C. Officers and Civil Surgeons to meet pressing requirements.

Our hospitals are filled by men tired of and worn out by the war, more than by those suffering from serious disease or wounds.

I have convalescent camps wherever required all over South Africa, but for these I could not carry on.

18th Dec.1900. Left Pretoria 5.45 a.m. train for Elandsfontein for the purpose of selecting a site for a General Hospital there. I found two very fair camping grounds. One very close to "Knights Station" on the line to "Springs". Knights Station is about one mile from Germiston Station, and as this line is not

used

used we can take over the station for use of the hospital and it will not be necessary to put down a railway siding as we have had to do at many of our General Hospitals.

I have asked Royal Engineers to lay on the Johannesburg water supply to the hospital. I inspected the hospital at Germiston, as I have described it in a former letter I will not now go into details. This hospital has now been raised to the rank of a General Hospital and Major James and No.2 Stationary Staff are in charge. The patients were well cared for but I am not satisfied with the Nursing Staff, so I have wired to Principal Medical Officer Natal to spare me one Army Nursing Sister to act as Superintendent.

I visited Convalescent Camp and found over 800 Convalescents. I carefully inspected them all and I found they were as a rule a poor broken down lot. They were all armed and are available for defence in case of attack.

I had intended to return to Pretoria by last train but had to remain for the night at Germiston, as a large Boer Commando was reported to be on the line.

19th Dec.1900. The line being reported clear of the Boers I returned to Pretoria by first train.

Colonel Notter is ill with dysentry and is a patient in Yeomanry Hospital. Colonel Keogh

of

of No.2 General Hospital is down I fear with Enteric.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) W.D.Wilson.

Surgeon General.

P.M.O. F.F.S.A.

4823/7/1245

C O P Y.

P.M.O.F.F/20/00

From
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force,
South Africa.

To
The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria 28th Dec. 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following in continuation of my diary :-

22nd Dec.1900. Many of the Royal Army Medical Corps Officers are visibly breaking down from anxiety and hard work. With few exceptions they have stuck to their posts and declined to give in. Last week I have had to make an urgent call on Natal for help and I expect 5 Royal Army Medical Corps Officers; these will help me to tide over my present difficulties. I must continue to keep up all my field units such as they are for the numerous columns now in the field. I have wired to you (Director General) asking if there is any use in my demanding more Royal Army Medical Corps Officers. I want them to replace men who are broken down by hard service.

I have given final orders to move No.14 General Hospital from Natal to Elandsfontein.

The

The site at Knights Station on the line to "Springs" is being got ready for it.

All hospitals in Transvaal are almost full and there is just now only a small margin. Enteric is scattered all over the country, but I can not say it amounts to an epidemic anywhere. There was a threatened outbreak at Piennars River due I believe to the water. Two new wells had been sunk but I consider one was not sufficiently protected from the floods due to heavy rain. I had the water examined and a large number of B.Coli were found. All water at this post (Piennars River) is now boiled and passed through a filter. I am pressing sanitary reform every where.

23rd Dec.1900. I have received a telegram saying that the Edinburgh Hospital at Norvals Pont has been wrecked by a storm. It arrived in this country 11th April and was pushed on at once to Norvals Pont. It was estimated that the railway carried up 700 tons of huts and equipment.

On 18th May they were able to treat 3 "in patients" and the hospital was not entirely open till 21st July. This hospital when it was opened looked well, but it practically gave us no help. It was in the country at the time of greatest pressure, but gave us no assistance even during the outbreak of enteric in Bloemfontein. I had to establish a Stationary

Hospital

Hospital in Norvals Pont to treat local sick which I considered the Edinburgh Hospital should have looked after.

I may add that I gave tents to the Edinburgh Hospital in April so as to enable them to open a hospital while their huts were being erected. They accepted the tents but did not open the wards till the huts were erected.

The above is a bare statement of facts which can not be reputed. I make this statement to show the difference between such a Hospital and an ordinary military one.

The latter would have opened its doors for sick a few days after landing and would be subjected to unfair criticisms from ignorant observers.

24th Dec.1900. Some time ago I placed Harrismith with 8th Division under Principal Medical Officer, Natal, and the latter has rendered it aid through Van Reenans Pass. Half a General Hospital has been moved to Harrismith from Natal.

I have directed Principal Medical Officer Natal to make frequent visits to Harrismith as I can not spare the time to go round to it by Natal.

25th Dec.1900. Wired to Colonel May, Principal Medical Officer, 8th Division, to inspect and report on Vrede at

once

once, as I find its garrison contributes a considerable number of Enterics.

26th Dec.1900. Visited Elandsfontein to select a new site for the General Hospital which is to be established there, as the site selected by me on 18th instant is objected to on Military grounds. The new site is close to line from Elandsfontein to Johannesburg it is not all that I could wish, but there are military objections to all the good sites.

On account of the number of sick from Harrismith now being sent to Natal Hospitals I have decided not to move any General Hospital from Natal to this side but to organise a new General Hospital for Elandsfontein.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) W.D.Wilson.

Surgeon General.

P.M.O.Field Force.

Diary.

From the Principal Medical Officer,

Field Force, South Africa.

To the Director General,

Army Medical Service,

London.

Pretoria, 4th January 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary:-

28th December 1900. I received a request from Professor Simpson Member of Enteric Commission to furnish him certain returns relative to Enteric, simple Continued Fever and Dysentery. As these returns are of a most complicated nature and would necessitate my calling in all the admission and discharge books in South Africa or collecting returns from every hospital in South Africa, I asked Colonel Notter if these returns were necessary he at once said he considered they were not required. I wrote a private note to Professor Simpson saying it was simply out of my power to comply with his request. My office is that for one Army Corps. I can not draw on Royal Army Medical Corps for more clerks. I informed him that I could let him have access to the ordinary

weekly

weekly returns but that neither myself, secretary, or clerks could do more than our present work.

The weather is very close and hot in the intervals between the storms which are often very violent. One of the orderlies of No.7 General Hospital was killed by lightning on the 27th December. Such accidents seem to be of very ordinary occurrence in the Transvaal.

29th December 1900. Professor Simpson called and I showed him a weekly sick return. He seemed very much disappointed that we had not a nominal roll of all sick. He thought that officers in Charge of Regiments and posts ought to be supplied with lists of the men they themselves sent in for treatment, and that these lists should be sent by the General Hospitals. If all the recommendations which emanate from the Civil elements are ever carried out, the Medical Services must assume proportions out of all reason to the actual work of treating the sick and wounded. To listen to them I can only gather that the only object or reason for their coming is to write reports for publication, and further that these reports will be in figures made by us and deductions made by them. In the present stage of the war and with a more

or

or less worn out personnel, I can not agree to furnish any such returns. We have Enteric in every camp, the sickly season is present and our sick rate may at any moment increase enormously. I consider it much more important to pay all attention to the care of the sick and wounded rather than to waste time in making returns which can not be of any practical use and which no one will read.

30th December 1900. On account of the sickness at Vrede in Orange River Colony at present occupied by a body of troops from 8th Division, I tried to get the place inspected either from Harrismith or from Standerton, but both roads are closed, I could only have instructions signalled on from Standerton.

31st December 1900. We lately have had a considerable amount of rain and the weather is cool. The heavy floods may possibly be beneficial in washing the ground. The Enteric at present is in every station in Transvaal and Orange River Colony. We have a large number of men in hospitals who are worn out by the campaign and who require rest and some treatment. Our convalescent camps are

also

also fairly full of men who only require rest and good food. All of these camps that I have visited I found the men comfortable and well fed. They all get some extras besides their ordinary rations.

They always ask me to get them some beer. This is not possible in the Transvaal.

1st January 1901. Called on Lord Kitchener and pointed out the unhealthy condition of the troops at Vrede. Last week there were 98 Enteric in hospital though a number of sick had been sent by last convoy to Harrismith. Lord Kitchener said he did not think he could evacuate it.

Asked for and received permission to give Directors of Civil Supplies necessary medicines for Refugees Camp Pretoria, as medicines are not obtainable in any of the shops in town.

2nd January 1901. On 12th December Lord Kitchener expressed a wish to reduce the number of beds at Bloemfontein. I settled to establish a hospital at Norvals Pont for 500 beds. Since then various difficulties have been raised locally. I have received information that attempts are being made to find a better site for a

General

General Hospital than at Norvals Pont. This is only delaying the settlement of our hospital accommodation and as the sickly season may now be considered to be on us, I consider it dangerous to temporise any longer, I therefore called on Lord Kitchener and pointed out the necessity of early decision, as the hospital should be moved now to Norvals Pont or remain on at Bloemfontein. He at once wired to General Hunter my views, but added that he wished the hospital moved out of Bloemfontein. If the move is to take place I have settled it is to be the Camp Section of No.10 General Hospital. I have wired to General Officer Commanding Natal to get ready another hospital train for Natal line. I find our hospital trains can not run with safety round the sharp curves or through Laings Neck tunnel.

On account of number of small columns on the move I have considered it necessary to order up ½ Indian Field Hospital from Volksrust to Transvaal. Volksrust is in the Natal Command and the Field Hospital is not required there.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) R. J. Simpson, Major

for Surgeon General,
P.M.O. F.F.

Copy.

Diary. 4823/7/1265

From the Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force,
South Africa.

To The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria, 11th January 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary :-

6th Jany:1901. On account of the number of Enteric at Kroonstad I sent a recommendation to Commander-in-Chief, to keep the Kroonstad garrison as small as possible, as it appears impossible to avoid an epidemic there. In my diary of 10th September 1900 I drew attention to Kroonstad water supply. Since then the Royal Engineers tried to get a supply from wells, and they sank two and found good water, but not in sufficient quantity. Orders have been issued to boil all drinking water, and I believe a considerable amount of trouble has been taken in the matter, but the task seems hopeless, as the soldier will drink in the first pool he comes to.

7th Jany:1901. Received a report of analysis of Kroonstad water from Colonel Notter, in which he states the water is bad and unfit for use. This water was sent by General Officer Commanding, Kroonstad, to Commission on Enteric and Dysentery and it only confirms my previous opinion.

Wrote

8th Jany:1901. Wrote to Engineer in Chief, drawing attention to hut "A", sent from England and I stated in its present condition it is unsuited as a barrack room. Up to date I have only seen the drawings, as the huts now being prepared in England for 30,000 have not, as far as I am aware arrived in this country.

The hut (A) is supposed to accommodate 30 men. At one end is the ablution room and urinal, so at night a man at the end of the hut not used as a urinal must walk the entire length of the barrack room, to go to urinal, and so disturb every one of his comrades. Any one, who knows anything of this country, will see at once the serious objection to a sloppy ablution room, and to a urinal under the same roof with the men. The huts do not appear to have any verandah nor match board lining.

I have recommended verandahs, with concrete floors, and wash houses and urinals to be in separate buildings, and not under the same roof as the men.

Chief Ordnance Officer Pretoria called and stated that he was in a difficulty about issuing hospital equipment to the many small hospitals on Line of Communication, where a Civil Surgeon is in charge, also issue of saddlery to these gentlemen. He proposed that some accountable officer of R.A.M.Corps should be directed to sign such receipts. I pointed out that the question only affected those Civil Surgeons, away from General and Stationary and Field Hospitals - that I had not enough R.A.M.C.officers to carry on the ordinary professional

duties,

duties, so his proposition must be at once set aside. The real question is simply a matter how the Ordnance accounts are kept. I suggested we should try and get the Station Commandant to sign receipts for hospital equipment, where a Civil Surgeon's receipt will not be accepted; that saddlery for such Civil Surgeons, be issued on loan, and that if the Ordnance supply me with list of Civil Surgeons, with such saddlery, I will see that they account for the saddlery before leaving this country.

9th Jany:1901. Wrote to Engineer in Chief, drawing his personal attention to the water supply of Kroonstad, as it has now been in the hands of the local authorities for a long time, and the supply is most unsatisfactory.

I also passed on to Engineer in Chief a letter, from Professor Simpson, recommending Morton tube wells, wherever troops are quartered. I made no observations on the recommendation. The provision of good water for use of our troops is the great question in South Africa. The rivers are all, more or less, foul and unfit for drinking or even cooking. We must therefore fall back in most stations on wells, these can be sunk by using a diamond drill and steam power. The resulting water is, as a rule, good but not abundant, hence we must fall back on having two water supplies, and this is fatal to success on account of the reckless indifference of the soldiers, who will drink anything and everything.

On

On account of the sickness among the troops at Pienaars river I have had wells sunk. All water is boiled and filtered, in spite of this, sickness continues. Major Coutts in his report to me says it is impossible to hinder the men using unboiled water, as they like it better than the boiled. Water has to be carried to the outposts, which hold lines of 8 or 9 miles in circumference add to these difficulties, the carelessness of the men, and the fact that they will drink any water they may find.

10th Jany:1901. The Engineer in Chief called, he said, he had tubes for sinking wells, but they are not suitable for South Africa, and that the diamond drill is the only method of any use.

He stated his difficulty in getting trained well sinkers, that he has engaged every one available in South Africa; that he has not been able to get up pumps or pipes from the base - finally he said he will not be able to supply to Kroonstad one water supply for that garrison; that there must be a double supply, one for drinking and cooking and one for ablutionary purposes &c.

He is asking for priority on railway for carriage of pumps and pipes from Cape Town to Kroonstad and other stations.

I have etc etc

(Sgd:) W.D.Wilson, Surgeon-General,

P.M.O. F.F. S.A.

4823/7/1270.

Diary.

From the Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To the Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria, 18th January 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary.

12th January 1901. Received a demi official letter from Engineer in Chief agreeing to my objections against the hutments sent out from England for the permanent garrison.

He states that the ablution room and urinal will be removed from the dwelling huts, and that they will be placed under sheds. He says there is a serious difficulty in having a cement floor for verandahs. This latter does not much matter so I will not press it.

14th January 1901. Instructed Colonel Notter to proceed to Kroonstad to examine into the sanitary condition there especially into the water supply.

15th January 1901. I visited Heidelberg as I wished to establish a larger hospital than the one there now. At present I have not enough accommodation nor is what I have got of

a

a very high order. The hospital now in occupation was established first by a local practitioner named Dr. O'Reilly who has been deported by Officer Commanding I found only two sites. One pointed out by Officer Commanding as being perfectly safe from attack. It is situated in a Kloof and there is good water at top of Kloof. The objections are the ground is very limited, and the cemetery is in the open end of the Kloof, and will be in view of the hospital.

The site I selected is an extensive piece of ground close to railway just as the line enters Heidelberg from Klandsfontein. The ground is suitable for wells and water can be obtained at about 40 feet.

The Military objections to this ground are fatal namely it is outside defences and if adopted the garrison would require to be increased.

16th January 1901. Returned to Pretoria.

17th January 1901. Called on Commander in Chief and reported condition of affairs generally. He said the objections against the good site selected were fatal but I might place another General Hospital in Klandsfontein, and try

and

and increase the accommodation at Heidelberg just for purely local purposes.

I drew Commander in Chief's attention to paucity of Royal Army Medical Corps Officers, and that many of these are quite broken down and unfit for hard work. I fear a break down if the present strain continues. I recommended the Commander in Chief to wire again for Royal Army Medical Corps Officers and to suggest that they should be drawn from India. I consider the situation to be critical. I know however that the Royal Army Medical Corps Officers will do their utmost to hold out.

I have wired to General Officer Commanding Heidelberg that a General Hospital will not be sent to Heidelberg but that a Stationary hospital of 150 beds will be formed and its site will be in the Kloof. I have issued the necessary orders to have this work carried out at once.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) W.D.Wilson,

Surgeon General
P.M.O. F.F. S.A.

Diary.

4823/7/1284

From The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To The Director General
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria

25th January, 1901.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following in continuation of my diary :-

18th Jany: 1901. The Officers Commanding the following units called by appointment on me and we went over personnel &c: I arranged to fill up vacancies as far as possible and I directed them to get ready to take the field at very short notice.

I find there is a wish to substitute ox for mule transports. I can not agree to this, for it will render the Field Hospitals and Bearer Companies less mobile and practically useless, when attached to mounted troops. The units are the following :-

13th Brigade Field Hospital	Major Pike
14th ,, ,,	Major Green
11th British Field Hospital	Major Carney

7th Bearer Co: attached to 14th Brigade, Major Burton's command.

These units act either as Bearer Companies or Field Hospital as required.

19th

19th Jany: 1901 On account of the continual call on me for Dentists, I have caused enquiry as to the presence of scurvy among the men, and I regret to say there is no doubt but that the disease is present. The supply of vegetables is small and bad. I have therefore recommended the issue of Lime Juice to all the troops.

On account of the number of convalescent officers sent to Cape Town, and as very many continue to journey to England, I am now trying to establish a Convalescent Home in Johannesburg and Colonel Gubbins leaves to-day for Johannesburg to try and secure a house, capable of accommodating 20 or 30 officers. I propose to run it on same lines as Claremont at Cape Town.

Measles has appeared in the Refugee Camp at Irene. This disease seems very common among the Boers. It is estimated that the refugee camps will accommodate about 40,000 people in the Transvaal. I am supplying drugs &c: as none are obtainable from Civil sources. As a rule the camps are under the charge of Civil Surgeons, but in several instances I have had to give aid.

Some time ago I found that a very serious leakage had been taking place in the number of admissions shown in the different hospitals. The error seems to have been general, and the cause was very simple. It appears that all the small garrisons "transferred" their sick to the nearest General Hospital, and the latter received them as transfers, thus very many cases have never been returned as admissions. An additional reason for this error is supplied by Army Form A.28 under the heading "transferred from other hospitals or sick

sick convoys". Of course, trained Medical Officers and trained clerks would not fall into this error, but it is only the well trained could avoid making the mistake.

I have sent out a circular bearing on the subject, and all admission and discharge books will be corrected as far as possible, but I can not correct past weekly A.28.

20th Jany:1901. As several Columns may shortly move I have warned certain Bearer Companies and Field Hospitals to be ready. All are short in personnel, but I am doing what I can to make good deficiencies. The Officer Commanding these units say they can get along, as the Columns will not be very strong. I am in urgent need of Royal Army Medical Corps Officers, N.C.Os and trained men.

Ordered 8th Brigade Bearer Company under Major Julian from Middleburg to Belfast so a s to be ready to accompany the troops.

These Bearer Cos: and Field Hospitals when in garrison assist the General Hospital very materially, for instance a small establishment is shown at Middleburg in B.62 but a considerable amount of the work has been done by men not shown on the return.

21st Jany:1901: Colonel Gubbins reports that Barney Barnato's house outside town of Johannesburg will make a suitable convalescent home for officers. This house is not entirely finished and will cost money before it can be ready. It will cost £600 to install electric light, there is no furniture in the house. I have written to Military Governor Johannesburg asking if he could point out any other house.

There

There has been a considerable amount of sickness, among the Staff, of No: 2 General Hospital, especially among the Civil Surgeons and Sisters. I made an inspection of some of the tents and kitchens &c: I could only find that the Nursing Sisters tents require shifting. Each sister has such a quantity of kit that the servants have found to it impossible to take up the tarpaulins, or clean the floors as they ought to be cleaned. I directed the Sisters tents to be moved on to fresh ground at once. As soon as I can get more hospital accommodation in the Transvaal I will bring down No: 2 to 500 beds.

22nd Jany:1901: Called on Commander in Chief and took orders to make new arrangements for ten columns, which are to leave for different stations in 5 days.

Directed by Commander in Chief to make estimate for personnel for say 3 or 6 months at a time, same as is done for horses. Up to date I have been making my demands for Civil Surgeons, Nursing Sisters &c: as I require them. I find that almost 100 Civil Surgeons may leave me in March. I am however counting on 50 per cent re-engaging.

23rd Jany:1901. Left for Elandsfontein and inspected No: 16 General Hospital, Major James in charge.

I have &c:

(Sd) W.D.Wilson,
Surgeon General,
P.M.O.Army

Diary 4823/7/1298,

From
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To
The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria,

1st February, 1901.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following in continuation of my diary :-

Left for Elandsfontein and inspected No:16 General Hospital, Major James in charge.

23rd January 1901.

Having inspected hospital I went to site of No:20 General Hospital and I found the work fairly advanced. The Royal Engineers were erecting cook-houses, pack stores and other necessary buildings.

Major Twiss has been appointed P.M.O., of this hospital. He accompanied me round and explained all his plans.

In the afternoon I visited No: 6 General Hospital at Johannesburg and I found it in excellent condition. During my inspection of Elandsfontein and Johannesburg:-

I visited two proposed new hospital sites

about

about 4 miles from Johannesburg and on the Elandsfontein and Johannesburg railway. Both sites are good and there are no military objections to their occupation.

24th January 1901. Returned to Pretoria.

25th January 1901. Colonel Dorman R.A.M.C., called to consult as to arrangements to be made for reception of sick along the Eastern Line railway (to Delagoa Bay) while the Columns are operating in that direction. My need of Royal Army Medical Corps Officers, is more acute than ever.

26th January 1901. Called on Commander-in-Chief and asked him to enquire if Australian and New South Wales troops now on their way to South Africa are bringing any Medical units. A Field Hospital and Bearer Company are both urgently required. I have asked General Officer Commanding Imperial Yeomanry if any medical personnel will accompany the Imperial Yeomanry now on their way from England. The period of service of the medical units for Imperial Yeomanry is now almost expired and it will be necessary to replace them.

Last week I directed the Imperial Yeomanry Field Hospital to join one of the columns operating to the east of Pretoria, but, all the Officers have reported sick.

sick. I have fortunately been able to fill their places. I am now sending only a detachment of the Yeomanry Field Hospital to Wonderfontein to assist in forming a small stationary hospital.

Colonel Swan No:13 General Hospital has been ordered up from Cape Town in order to prepare a ground selected outside Johannesburg.

The personnel and equipment can follow in 8 or 10 days.

27th January 1901.

Our hospitals in Transvaal are now full and I have to-day no margin. I have wired to Natal to be ready to take 400 sick, this can be done by increasing their accommodation, in all their larger hospitals.

Enterics or serious cases will not be moved.

The Ordnance has not yet supplied equipment for No:20 General Hospital at Elandsfontein. I am urging the Ordnance to hurry up beds &c. When this will be done I hope most of immediate pressure will cease.

28th January 1901.

Convalescent Depot at Standerton is now being raised from 200 to 500 men. I would have done this months ago but the Standerton water supply from the river was not of best quality.

29th January, 1901.

A new hospital train is being fitted on

Natal

Natal line. I find a difficulty in finding personnel for it.

Received a wire from Lourenco Marques that Hospital Ship "Oreana" is almost full of sick. The general health of troops in Crocodile Valley is bad. I expect an increase of sickness there next month as February is the most deadly month of the year.

I will try and transfer the convalescents by mail steamer from Lourenco Marques to Durban and so make room for the sick from Komati Poort.

30th January 1901.

Very large numbers of the Civil Surgeons who have almost completed their contract for one year are claiming to be sent home.

I calculated on 50 per cent remaining out, but I find I have made a mistake.

31st January 1901.

The question of the disposal of dead animals now causes serious anxiety. Horse sickness is epidemic and on one day 167 horses died in and about Pretoria. It is the duty of the Sanitary Authorities (civil) to dispose of these dead horses which has been done by being buried, and a few have been burned. It is however most unsatisfactory. Colonel Notter has been consulted and he recommends cremation. I will lay the matter before Commander in Chief.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(sd.) W.D.Wilson.
Surgeon General,
P.M.O.F.F.S.A

Copy.

Diary. 4823/7/1314

From The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria, 8th Feby: 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary.

st Feby:1901. The Staff Officer of Engineer in Chief called relative to objections made to the huts now being erected for No:7 General Hospital. This hospital is occupying what I consider may prove the permanent site for hospital for Pretoria Garrison.

The huts in question were those made last year for hospital at Orange River; they are movable and simple and rough in construction. I consider that all objections will cease, if the inside is match boarded - verandahs placed on north side, and floors raised off the ground. The English made huts are on the coast and the railways are unable to bring them up country.

nd Feby:1901. Called on General Officer Commanding in Chief and explained my views as to disposal of dead carcases, which are, to hold the civil authorities accountable, but for us to erect a crematorium for say disposal of 30 horses daily the site to be selected by Principal Veterinary Officers, who said he would like it near his own sick lines - East of Pretoria. The civic authorities

bury

bury carcases about 5 miles away to west so the destruction of carcases of dead horses towards the east must lighten their labour very considerably.

I have obtained sanction to establish a small convalescent home for Nurses in Johannesburg. At my last visit I made all arrangements and I have to-day received covering authority. Many of the Nurses have been ill in the Sisters' Hospital here, and it has been found inconvenient to send them back to their own hospitals, before they were fit for regular work.

A Dr.Ramsbottom who accompanied a Boer Commando into Cape Colony has been made prisoner and brought to Pretoria. I was asked to examine him and see if he was entitled to come under Red Cross rules.

I found that he was appointed by President Steyn as head of Red Cross arrangements at commencement of the war. There seems no evidence that he ever took up arms. As his commando seems to have scattered and its whereabouts are not known, it has been decided to return him to Bloemfontein (his own town) and to employ him there, in one of the Refugee Camps. Dr.Ramsbottom was I believe born in England but has been many years living in Orange River Colony; he has property there. He appears a smart clever man and I have no doubt but that he will be a loyal subject as long as we hold the country.

I questioned Dr.Ramsbottom as to his arrangements for sick and wounded, he could give me he said very little information. He said when he entered Cape Colony

he

he could only provide for 4 sick or wounded. His arrangements seemed to consist in leaving sick and wounded in farm houses and taking no more trouble about them.

rd Feby:1901. General Lyttleton passed through Pretoria last night on his way to Naauwpoort. He asked me for a Principal Medical Officer, so I ordered Colonel Carter from Middleburg to join him.

The sickness on the line to Komati Poort is increasing and many of the Civil Surgeons on this line report sick.

th Feby:1901. Yesterday, I commenced inspection of Model Schools and finished to-day. I found the three hospitals satisfactory. I made a minute inspection of the sick as I am aware that a considerable number of men are now reporting sick, who would not do so at other times. I found that some of these had been diagnosed and they were going out to Convalescent Camp or direct to duty.

th Feby:1901. No:20 General Hospital at Klandsfontein is not yet ready for sick on account of the delay in getting up Ordnance Stores from the base. On account of increased movement of troops in Cape Colony I have postponed bringing up No:13 General Hospital from Cape to Transvaal.

h Feby:1901. Colonel Wood R.A.M.C. of No:3 General Hospital reported his arrival, he has been sent up by General Officer Commanding at Kroonstad to confer with me about

sanitation

sanitation. I have always objected to Kroonstad, and I pointed out that it would be a centre of Enteric. In September last I urged wells to be sunk and so avoid the town water supply. The Royal Engineers did sink wells but the quantity and means of transport of this water were insufficient.

th Feby:1901. I wired instructions to Principal Medical Officer, Natal, to place Lt.Col:Martin in charge of No:15 General Hospl: Wenick - Lt.Col:Johnston to Pietermaritzburg.

I have etc etc.

(Sgd:) W.D.Wilson, Surg:General,
P.M.O. F.F. S.A.

Copy.

Diary. 4823/7/1324

From The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South South Africa.
To The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria, 15th February, 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary.

8th Feb:1901. I am receiving the usual bad reports from Komati Poort caused by malarial diseases; I have done everything possible. I have supplied mosquito nets, eucalyptus oil, and carbolic soap, as the lather of the latter is supposed to keep mosquitos away for a considerable time.

I have not urged that the huts be made mosquito proof, as was done by Civil Sanitary Officers for Transvaal, as it is quite impossible to do so. The Hospital Ship "Orcana" is still in Delagoa Bay, and it acts as a base hospital for Komati Poort. I have had to transfer convalescents from "Orcana" to Durban to make room for fresh sick from Komati Poort.

9th Feb:1901. I have asked Colonel Notter to visit Klandsfontein, with a view to his making any recommendation, about Nos:13 and 20 General Hospitals, now being established there, that he may consider necessary.

10th Feb:1901. Principal Medical Officer, Cape Town, has wired that there are some cases of illness (not among the troops) resembling

resembling the Plague. He has asked for the services of Major Yarr, R.A.M.C. Orders have been issued accordingly.

A large convoy of sick and wounded is expected from Ermelo, at Standerton, on 13th. As the hospital at Standerton is fairly full, I have sent two hospital trains to Standerton. These can either remove some of the present sick, from the General Hospital there, or take the sick from convoy direct, as may be thought best by the Medical Officers. I omitted to mention that on 9th inst. I made an inspection of No:7 General Hospital, and I found every thing satisfactory.

11th Feb:1901. On account of the numbers of Enteric admitted into No:3 General Hospital, at Kroonstad, from the different posts from the Vet River, to the Vaal, I directed Principal Medical Officer, Bloemfontein, to have all these posts inspected.

I have made short and hurried visits to these posts, when passing up and down the line, but was never able to make a thorough and exhaustive inspection of each Military post. On account of the train service, it is as a rule only possible to inspect two posts on any day. All are situated on the open veldt - cooking is done in the open, and the latrine trenches are situated about 200 yards from each camp.

The question of good water has always been the difficulty. I may state generally that all original sources of water supply were bad and with few exceptions bad all over South Africa.

The

The report of inspection furnished to me by Principal Medical Officer Bloemfontein is before me, and shows that sanitation has never been lost sight of. The following military posts were inspected :-

Wolvehoek. The troops use the water from a well about 1 mile south of the camp, and the railway staff, rain-water collected in iron tanks. The supply does not last all the year, and during last cold season, water was brought by train from a tributary of the Vaal, 11 miles north of the camp. Previous to the war, the railway authorities made several borings but failed to get water. The Royal Engineers are now boring. One difficulty is, that a hard iron rock is encountered at 60 feet. All drinking water is boiled and stored in iron tanks.

Vredefort Road. In December 1900, the camp was moved from its original position close to the station to a kopje one mile from the station. At about 500 yards from the base of this hill, a well 120 feet deep was sunk, and a good and sufficient supply of water was found. This water is boiled for drinking purposes. For the week ending 1st February there were 6 admissions for Enteric.

Roodeval Spruit. Water supply here is not satisfactory, and a boring will be made as soon as a drill becomes available. At present water is boiled and stored in tanks. The health of this detachment is improving. There were 4 admissions for Enteric for week ending

1st

1st February.

Virginia Siding. Water from a railway well, 47 feet deep, and is apparently good boiled and stored in iron tanks.

Vet River. Water is taken from a shallow well and is boiled. A fresh boring is to be made on a selected site, south of the river - health improving.

It has been said that I should have insisted on the immediate sinking of wells wherever troops are quartered and it has been said, it could be done by means of tube wells. When I came to South Africa in 1899 I quickly found from people who understood the country, that deep wells could only be made by diamond drills, and the Royal Engineers have secured every drill in the country and every man capable of working a drill. Civil Sanitary Officers are content to allow towns to be most insanitary, but pretend to think we could do more than has been done.

It would take 20 years during peace time, backed up by unlimited capital, to place every town and every railway station in a sound condition as regards water supply, and this work we are supposed to do in the space of a few months in the middle of a big war.

12th Feb:1901. I wired 11th January (to you that there was need here for Dentists) in the hope that some arrangement could

could be made at home for sending a few Dentists to do very necessary for the troops. I was forced to send this wire, on account of the very urgent appeals made to me. The service no doubt is unusual, but I see it must in future be provided for. I am glad to say, that there were a number of refugee dentists in Cape Town &c and these were glad to come up and agreed to accept reduced rates from Officers and men. The immediate urgency has therefore ceased, but it still remains a subject for consideration.

8th Feb:1901. The Secretary to High Commissioner has wired asking if Professor Simpson could proceed to Cape Town on Plague duty for one week. I have consulted the latter and he has arranged to start to-morrow. There are nine cases of Plague now under treatment in Cape Town. Up to date no soldier has been attacked.

I have recommended that Cape Town should cease to be an entry port for food supplies. Wired to Colonel Notter now at Klandsfontein asking him, if he could inspect and report on Krugersdorp. There is not only Enteric among the troops but an outbreak among the civil population.

4th Feb:1901. Wrote to Director of Supplies asking him to notify to all his Officers, that Plague had broken out in Cape Town, and that food stuffs would be a likely means of introducing it into Orange River Colony and Transvaal. I asked him to report, at once, if any

mortality

mortality has been noticed among rats or mice, and further that he should take immediate steps to kill all rats and mice.

I have sent Colonel Gubbins, to inspect and report on the small hospital, (property of one of the Gold Mines near Johannesburg) and which I have taken over as a nucleus for No :13 General Hospital. I consider this hospital could be used as a Sanatorium, for sick officers, as Cape Town is too far away.

15th Feb:1901. Health of troops at Komati Poort is very bad due to Malaria.

The general health all over South Africa shows signs of improving.

Weather cooler.

I have etc. etc.

W.D. Wilson, Surgeon-General.
P.M.O. F.F., S. A.

Diary - 4823/7/1332.

From
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To
The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria.

22nd February 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary -

8th February 1901.

Colonel Gubbins has returned and he has reported against using the hospital taken over from the Mines for No.13 General Hospital, as a Sanitarium. His principal objection is that it would be very slow for convalescent officers and that they would have no amusement. On considering the matter I agree with him as I have found convalescent officers difficult to deal with. An ideal sanitarium which would please every one should have all the freedom and good catering of a first class club. All the care of hospital, plenty of amusement, and bright society. I have asked Colonel Large to look out for a suitable house in Johannesburg.

For

For some time I have been trying to find out from Imperial Yeomanry what they intend to do in their future hospital arrangements. According to my present private information the hospitals at Deelfontein and Maitland are to be closed by end of March. I hear that 5000 Yeomanry are coming out from England and I have no notice of these whatever.

If my private information is correct that the Staffs of two Yeomanry Hospitals go home next month I will require more staff than what has already been asked for, also a Bearer Company and Field Hospital.

I have sent an urgent wire to Lord Chesham asking for a reply.

Colonel Notter has returned from inspecting Krugersdorp he was not favourably impressed with the hospital. The building is unsuitable. I have wired to Officer Commanding Krugersdorp asking for a site close to railway, where I propose to place a tent hospital of 150 beds. If there is no military objection to the site I hope to have tents &c ready in a few days - the present hospital being gradually evacuated.

There are serious complaints about the chloroform as almost all the bottles come from England with about ½ or ¼ of proper amount of chloroform (I have wired this to you to-day)

I

I am rather inclined to think that the residue at bottom of the bottle of chloroform is not safe. I am aware that analytical chemists will not agree with me.

17th February 1901.

Arrangements are being made to bring the Hospital Ship Orcana from Delagoa Bay to Durban to enable her to evacuate her sick to Princess Christian Hospital Pinetown. The Orcana is to return to Delagoa Bay as soon as she has evacuated the sick and taken in stores. This work is to be done immediately on relief of present regiment now at Komati Poort.

18th February 1901.

I have received a report from Principal Medical Officer, Bloemfontein stating the water supply there is in a most unsatisfactory condition. He states the filter beds are not supplied with a sufficient amount of sand and that the camp at Sannah's Post may contaminate the waters. I understand there is a military necessity for placing the Camp where it is. The filters are in charge of the Bloemfontein Corporation. I am now awaiting the action of local authorities.

19th February 1901.

Visited Pienaars River and Waterval this morning and I found the general health good. There has been a considerable amount of sickness principally Enteric at Pienaars River but since the water supply has been

improved.

improved the sickness has diminished.

When first occupied there were two water supplies namely from the river and from a railway well. The river water was bad and the colour of pea soup. The well water was clear but contaminated by fœcal matter.

The usual boiling and filtering were resorted to till wells could be sunk.

The Royal Engineers made two wells about ¼ mile from the railway station and found excellent water. One bore hole made by a diamond drill is 100 feet deep and the water is excellent.

The river water used for washing purposes is filtered and boiled. The water from both wells is also boiled and filtered - There is an abundance of fire wood as Pienaars Post is in the bush veldt.

There is a hospital of 50 beds at Pienaars now. All serious or long continued cases of sickness are sent to Pretoria.

I found the health generally improving along the line.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) W.D.Wilson
Surgeon General
P.M.O.F.F.S.A.

Diary - 4823/7/1338.

From
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To
The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria, 1st March 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary:-

19th February 1901.

On account of the number of cases of Enteric at Standerton I have asked Colonel Notter to inspect it. At my visit there I found very great fault with water supply, which was taken from the river below the town. Since then the intake was placed above the town, but at a spot just as objectionable as that below town.

20th February 1901.

I am in the midst of a correspondence with Military Governor Pretoria, who claims on behalf of Dr. Turner, Sanitary Officer, returns of all infectious and contagious diseases. I do not know of any authority directing us to furnish such returns. Dr. Turner called on Medical Officers of all Military Hospitals to furnish the returns, and he makes inspections. He has authority for latter, but I know of no right for demanding returns direct from Medical Officers. I intend to submit the correspondence for orders from General Officer Commanding in Chief.

21st February 1901.

Most of the troops having left this part of

Transvaal

Transvaal, the hospitals here and in Klandsfontein are becoming almost empty. I fear the next rush of sick and wounded will be on to Newcastle, which is now becoming the base for General French's columns.

22nd February 1901.

Received an intimation from Yeomanry authorities that they would try and send out one field unit. I presume a combined Field Hospital and Bearer Company. The personnel of their field unit has gone home and that of Hospitals at Deelfontein and Waitland leave next month. I understand that about 12,000 Yeomen are coming, for which as far as I know no medical arrangement have been made and I got no notice that the onus would be placed on the present Military Hospitals. For a long time I have tried to get definite information so as to enable me to be ready in the event of the Yeomanry failing in their medical arrangement, but nothing seems to be known out here.

23rd February 1901.

Colonel Notter reports that Standerton Hospital (No.17 General) is in a splendid condition, and on a good site, that the place ought to be a sanitarium on account of its elevation but that the water supply is bad.

He recommends that the river should cease to supply the drinking water and that a well should be bored at once for use of troops. The matter is now in the hands of Royal Engineers and the latter has promised to

sink

sink a well at once and on a spot selected by Colonel Notter.

th February 1901. General condition of medical arrangement continue satisfactory. At present we have a very large number of beds vacant in Pretoria, this is enabling the staff to have a general cleaning.

th February 1901. Colonel Sloggett R.A.M.C. has called. He is in charge, Yeomanry Hospital, Doelfontein. I have informed him that he must continue in charge, after Yeomanry personnel has left for England.

th February 1901. It has been found necessary to send Oreana Hospital Ship, at Delagoa Bay, round to Durban to land sick and to be re-provisioned. This is to be done as quickly as possible. During her absence the sick from Komati Poort will be sent to Waterval Onder.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd:) W. D. Wilson,

Surgeon General,

P.M.O. F.F.S.A.

Copy.

Diary 4823/7/1344.

From The Principal Medical Officer
Field Force, South Africa.

To The Director General,
Army Medical Service.
London.

Pretoria 8th March 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary -

28th February 1901. We feel the need of a convalescent home, for officers in Transvaal and I am pressing the Principal Medical Officer of Johannesburg to try and secure some good houses in or near Johannesburg, for say 25 officers.

No:20 General Hospital is now receiving patients at Elandsfontein.

No:13 General Hospital is being got ready on the site midway between Elandsfontein and Johannesburg. We have now a large number of vacant beds in Pretoria. The hot season seems drawing to a close and health is improving all round. I trust that in one month the sickly season in Krokodile Valley will end.

1st March 1901 Cabled home my actual requirements for the General Hospital, Deelfontein, and for Bearer Company and Field Hospital (to replace Yeomanry). The Nurses at

the

the Yeomanry Hospital are Army Nursing Service Reserve and must therefore remain. Colonel Slogget says he will not require the full number of orderlies, and he hopes the Yeomanry Committee will continue to assist him in funds and so secure additional native labor and provide luxuries. The hospital will be known officially as 21 General Hospital, but no doubt it will be continued to be known as the Yeomanry Hospital, Deelfontein.

4th March,1901. Accompanied by Colonel Gubbins I visited Johannesburg for the purpose of making arrangements there for an Officers' Sanitarium.

At present officers when discharged from Hospital in Transvaal who may not be fit for duty are allowed to go to Cape Colony or Natal.

I saw three houses selected by Colonel Somerville Large. I do not think they are suitable as they are of a poor class and have not any room capable of dining more than eight or ten.

Barny Barnatos house would suit, if I can have it commandeered.

I inspected the Nursing Sisters' Sanitarium managed by Civil Surgeon Rogers and Mrs Rogers. The nurses were comfortable and well fed. The home was not as tidy as it ought to be. I found it necessary to

issue

issue an order through Principal Medical Officer Johannesburg to the convalescent nurses stating they are not at liberty to bring guests to dinner at the "home".

It has been customary to have bands and concerts at No: 6 General Hospital in the Wanderers Club. All military were admitted free, but civilians were charged for entrance.

I considered the concerts were held too late and were not advisable, and I ordered that gate money should not be levied for attendance on the band. Colonel Somerville Large appealed against the latter decision and asked me to re-consider it.

I consider my action is sound, and necessary for though the money has no doubt been properly disposed of, still it is unusual and might cause the uncharitable to say what would not be true.

I was not able to inspect No: 6 General Hospital as I had to catch the 4 p.m. train to Pretoria.

6th March 1901.

Called on Lord Kitchener, and took orders relative to the Military Governor's demand for returns for all Military Hospitals, as mentioned in my diary of 20th February.

I am to write to Military Governor saying I

can

can not render the returns asked for but that I will cause the Sanitary Officer to be informed of any outbreak of infectious diseases so as to place him on his guard, and that I will expect similar information from him. That the notification of every case of Enteric is quite unnecessary in a country where the disease is endemic.

I trust this will end the matter.

I drew the General Officer Commanding's attention to our need of a sanitarium for officers in the Transvaal - he agreed, but said he would not sanction a big rent for any house. I am in hopes of securing Barny Barnatos house, rent free. The rent asked for it has been £2,000 a year.

The Boer General Viljoen has sent me in a big requisition for Medicines, &c, from a place near Belfast. I have complied as far as I could (omitting all patent medicines). I am informed that General Botha also requires drugs, especially quinine. A wire has been sent to the Netherlands Ambulance at Lorenco Marques, asking if they can meet these demands in future. Up to the present General Botha's requisition has not been received by me.

One man of Royal Army Medical Corps in No: 5 General Hospital, is suffering from Plague. I am

informed

informed that he has been sent to Plague Camp, and all precautions have been taken.

6th March 1901.

I have received a wire from Principal Medical Officer Natal that "Orcana" sails to-day for Delagoa Bay. She has been detained much longer at Durban than was advisable. I had given ample notice before she sailed for Durban that she would be required to return at once to Lorenco Marques. There was a delay in putting on provisions &c.

The troops at Komati Poort are very unhealthy due to malarial diseases. They are having prolonged and heavy rains. It is hoped that health of troops, at Komati Poort will improve in April, it being the commencement of the so called healthy season.

7th March 1901

We have had very heavy rain and the temperature has fallen considerably.

I receive a daily telegram from Komati Poort relative to health and sanitation of the garrison. Last night's wire has been the first of a favourable character, it stated the health was improving. It was originally settled that the garrison should be relieved every month, the present garrison is doing its second month.

Lady Gifford called saying she had orders from

Director

Director General to be employed. I passed her on to Colonel Gubbins, Principal Medical Officer Pretoria saying she might be of use in convalescent camp, and in organizing concerts &c.

She is not a trained nurse, and as such, would not be welcome into any of our hospitals. Since writing the above Colonel Gubbins has called and says he can not find any suitable employment for Lady Gifford.

I have &c:

(sd.) W.D.Wilson,
Surgeon General,
P.M.O. F.F. S.A.

Diary.

From The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

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Pretoria,
15th March, 1901.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following in continuation of my diary :-

8th March 1901. An army order has just been published ordering a Board of Officers of which Colonel Notter R.A.M.C. is a member to to choose a site for a permanent camp for troops near Pretoria. This is, I believe a result of my letter drawing attention to the very faulty site already selected. In my letters I drew attention to Colonel Notter's presence in this country and I suggested that his services might be utilised. I have recalled Colonel Notter from Natal to assist in selecting a site for barracks near Pretoria.

9th March, 1901. I had arranged to go to Middleburg on inspection duty, but the weather is so wet I considered it best to postpone my visit as it is impossible to make a thorough inspection of the tents during heavy rains.

10th March 1901. Weather continues very wet. The rain is not very heavy, but it is steady and without a break.

The

The Military Governor Pretoria has forwarded to me for first time the Medical Officer of Health report for Pretoria for month of February.

European population is put down as 11,968. Of these 3135 are males, 2510 females and 3860 children.

There were 24 births during the month.

There were 33 deaths among the males and 30 females (children evidently included in death totals).

Of the diseases 43 are returned as Enteric showing a decrease of 66 over previous month.

These last figures evidently include natives. I omit the remaining tables of the Medical Officer of Health's return as there is no doubt but that natives are included We do not know the native population but what I personally have seen I believe Enteric is prevalent.

11th March 1901 The wet weather continues.

12th March 1901 Left Pretoria at 4 a.m. this day for Middleburg. I made inspection of most of the posts at the different railway stations, and inspected the different non-dieted hospitals. I was not able to visit any of the out posts, as the train could not be detained so long for me. I found that all the Medical Officers (Civil and Military) were alive to the importance of good water but the men at the out posts which contributed enteric and dysentery were most carelsss and filled their water bottles from first spruit or river they came across.

Alg Stat Telegram Isa. 20.4.01 Men to be Cautioned daily!

Arrived at Middleburg at 2 p.m. and inspected hospital till 5-30 p.m. I found the patients well looked after. The hospital is well supplied with good tents, good beds, good food, and attendance, but good administrative buildings are required. Water supply is good and abundant.

The Convalescent Camp was not satisfactory, the

theground required drainage. No amusement was provided for the men. No tent set apart for reading room.

13th March 1901. At 8 a.m. I continued my inspection of the station and ended at 10 a.m. when I left for Pretoria, arriving here 8-30 p.m.

14th March 1901. Called on General Officer Commanding-in-Chief and made a verbal report of my inspection, along Eastern line as far as Middleburg.

I drew attention to a Report I have received as to condition of Cape Town and suggested I should go there.

General Officer Commanding in Chief said he wished me to go and assume management there, as long as I considered necessary. I have arranged to leave by mail train 16th instant.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) W.D.Wilson,

Surgeon General,

P.M.O. F.F.S.A.

Diary 4823/7/1358.

From The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To The Director General,
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria,
22nd March, 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary :-

15th March 1901. What remains of New South Wales Ambulance is now at Krugersdorp, and is under orders to return to New South Wales. This unit has done good service.

In my weekly health report to General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, I stated the health as fair. In very many posts Enteric and Dysentery have decreased very much and I believe there is no doubt but that we may look forward to a still further improvement shortly. I think the general health is probably better than it appears from our hospital returns. We have had in many places 10 or 14 days heavy rains, this not only causes admissions but it also stops discharges. There are now about 700 empty beds in Pretoria alone.

Sister Hardement No: 2 General Hospital is going home sick.

I leave by mail train tomorrow for Cape Town.

Surgeon

16th March 1901. Surgeon General Wilson left this morning for Cape Town, on inspection duty.

Received a letter from Major Sawyer S.M.O. Belfast, relative to the supply of drugs etc for General Viljoen, which had been asked for. Major Sawyer had sent out all available, and had wired for further supplies which have been sent from the Medical Store Depot here.

17th March, 1901. Colonel Allan May, Principal Medical Officer 8th Division reports in his weekly sanitary report that Enteric Fever is increasing throughout his district. The report from Bethlehem on February 25th gives 89 cases under treatment; and in Ficksburg on March 5th, 41 cases. I am wiring to Bethlehem to use extra precautions as to drinking water, and to Principal Medical Officer 8th Division to inspect if possible.

Arrangements are being made for a new Staff for Deelfontein. Colonel Sloggett can retain some good orderlies at the Cape Medical Staff Corps rate viz :- 5s/- per diem. Ten sisters including the Superintendent remain. He has a large native establishment of about 90 persons employed in various capacities outside the hospital.

18th March, 1901. Received proposed scheme for disposition of Imperial Yeomanry, also details of Lieut:General Lyttleton's Major General Elliot's and C.Knox forces. These are

being

being augmented. Have asked Principal Medical Officers of these forces if they require any additional medical personnel.

Received letter concerning the chloroform, reported bad. Three bottles from No: 6 General Hospital were sent to Colonel Notter R.A.M.C. some time ago for analysis and have not since been received. He reported verbally that it was of good quality. I have wired for full report and to enquire disposal of the samples he received.

19th March, 1901.

The Military Governor, Pretoria, wrote suggesting that the time had now come to take precautions against the introduction of Plague into the Transvaal, and asking that all suspicious cases should be notified to the Medical Officer of Health, Transvaal. Replied that precuations had been taken some time ago, that cases would be notified, and that Surgeon General Wilson was now on his way to Cape Town in connection with that subject.

I hear to-day that 800 Victorians landed at Cape Town, and will shortly some up country. The Scottish Horse are also on their way from Cape Town. I wired to all Principal Medical Officers on the Cape line to take every opportunity of holding medical inspection of all men coming up country, from Cape Town, and

especially

especially of all followers; all suspicious cases to be dealt with on the spot.

20th March, 1901.

I saw Lieut:Colonel Swart A.A.G. at the Commander-in-Chiefs on the question of quarantine for all arrivals at Cape Town; and arranged that all troops coming here from that part shall be kept apart and under observation until ten days shall have elapsed from the date of their departure from Cape Town. I saw Colonel Gubbins on the subject, who will take the necessary steps.

Columns are being formed for use in various districts, most of them are already provided with medical establishment, but others have to be arranged for. The 8th Bearer Company has been ordered from Krugersdorp to accompany a column on the Eastern line.

Inspector General Imperial Yeomanry, in answer to a question of mine, states that he has asked for sixteen medical officers to replace those out here, and that the first 11,000 Imperial Yeomanry are to replace those who have been out, and are not an additional force.

There has been a small but steady loss of Medical Officers of Imperial Yeomanry, and these have had to be replaced by our Civil Surgeons in some instances..

I asked Inspector General if he could obtain medical officers from among medical men serving in the ranks of the Imperial Yeomanry but have had no reply.

A

21st March 1901.

A case of Plague was reported last evening on board the "Roslin Castle" at Durban. This vessel was taking Boer prisoners to Ceylon, and Colonel Supple R.A.M.C. was also a passenger by it. In answer to a wire, I find that no troops disembarked, and the ship held no communication with the shore.

The "Roslin Castle" has returned to Cape Town.

The case was in a man of Roberts' Horse, who came from Maitland Camp.

The 8th Bearer Company leaves Krugersdorp to-day, for Pretoria to accompany a column.

The 6th Contingent from New Zealand arrived to-day, about 500 strong. They disembarked at East London and though in Table Bay, were not allowed to communicate with the shore. I learn this from Surgeon Major Sherman who came in medical charge of the contingent, and reported his arrival to-day. There are two other medical Officers with the contingent Captains Purdie & O'Neil, who will be available for other duty with the column to which this contingent is attached.

The personnel to replace the existing establishment at Deelfontein, is being collected. Colonel Sloggett has a large native establishment, who are employed in various capacities, and are all apparently

necessary

necessary.

The personnel cabled for to replace the original establishment will be just sufficient to make up for that now being lent. Lieut: & Quarter Master Lunney recently promoted goes there as Quartermaster.

There has been heavy and almost continuous rain for the last ten days, with a few intervals.

Enteric Fever and Dysentery are becoming less important in this district and the Orange River Colony generally; but Enteric is still prevalent at Bethlehem, Ficksburg and Harrismith.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(sd.) R.J.S.Simpson,
Major R.A.M.C.

for P.M.O. F.F. (absent on duty).

(6)

Diary.

4823/7/1566.

From the Principal Medical Officer

Field Force, South Africa.

To the Director General,

Army Medical Service,

London.

Pretoria, 29th March 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary -

22nd March 1901. The 8th Bearer Company arrived today under Major Townsend en route for Middleburg. They were supplied with three tongas instead of a similar number of ambulances left behind. The tongas are more suitable for rapidly moving columns. They have however three ambulances in addition. Six additional men R.A.M.Corps have been added as the personnel is small.

I sent off the correspondence regarding sisters Newton and Cameron with covering letter to the Director General A.M.S.

Lieutenant and Quartermaster Lunney R.A.M.C. reported his arrival from Natal en route to Deelfontein for duty.

I

I have asked for men and Civil Surgeons to be sent up from the Base at once to meet the additional requirements of the forces now being concentrated. Still very wet.

23rd March 1901. Received cable (code) No.6825 from Director General A.M.S. with regard to disposal of kits of men admitted to hospital for Enteric Fever etc., and have sent it out as a circular for compliance and report as to their past practise.

Surgeon Captain Griffiths of the 3rd New Zealand contingent called today to request that he might be retained at No.19 General Hospital instead of going with General Plumers Force into the field, as he was not fully recovered from his recent illness. This was arranged for.

General Plumers force is now in Pretoria, pending a move onwards.

24th March 1901. Major Porter R.A.M.C. Senior Medical Officer General Plumers Column reported today. He has with him part of the 13th Brigade Field Hospital of which he is Commanding Officer, and 14th Brigade Field Hospital under

Major

Major Green. These are for Jeffries and Cradochs columns. Colonel Beatsons column though coming here temporarily belongs to Elliotts Force from Kroonstad and has been arranged for from there. As the 13th and 14th Brigade Field Hospitals are undermanned, I added 4 men and three tongas to each, and their remaining personnel detached at Bloemfontein will be sent up here.

25th March 1901. Application for the discharge for misconduct of Private C. J. Stove R.A.M.Corps approved.

He has only a few months service, and has been awarded imprisonment for 84 days by Field General Court Martial for stealing money the property of a comrade.

Reports from the 8th Divisi on received. Enteric Fever is very prevalent in that district. The numbers under treatment were

At Harrismith 15th March 1901 -	113
At Bethlehem 10th March 1901 - -	84
At Ficksburg 12th March 1901 - -	44

There is a negative report from the analyst at Maritsburg regarding the drinking water at Harrismith,. Neither Bacillus typhosus nor coli were found, but the

sample

sample was small, and the examination delayed. Considerable attention appears to be paid to all sanitary conditions.

A small outbreak of Enteric occurred among the Commander in Chiefs Body Guard at Bezindenhout. It was apparently due to drinking bad water from a fouled source near the Camp.

Under instructions from Surgeon General Wilson, I sent in a draft for Army Orders regarding the separation of and daily inspection of all troops from Cape Town, and Surgeon General Wilson has arranged that all trains carrying troops shall have a distinguishing yellow flag. He intimates that Plague Serum has been sent to De Aar, Norvals Pont, Bloemfontein, Kroonstad Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, East London and Durban. I have sent out a copy of the Local Government Board instructions to these places.

26th March 1901. Saw Colonel Rawlinson about Colonel Beatsons column. It seems that Colonel Beatson will have the men mentioned, and may act independently for a few days. The 21st Brigade Field Hospital has therefore been ordered up to Pretoria to accompany him.

I

I have arranged for four more ambulances and four tongas to go with this column. The force will probably be off the line, and in a more or less malarial district. These will be distributed (on arrival) to all the columns. This is independent of the transport the 21st Field Hospital bring up.

The Medical Officer in charge the Victorian Mounted Rifles asked for a second set of regimental equipment, as the regiment is over 1,000 strong and likely to be divided into two independent units. I arranged for this, also for the supply of filters.

27th March 1901. The 21st Brigade Field Hospital with two ambulances and four tongas will arrive this evening and go on to Pienaars River tomorrow morning. This gives three field units with twelve ambulances and fourteen tongas for about 3,000 men, besides those on regimental charge.

I hear from Principal Medical Officer, Base that he has recommended to Base Commandant that hospital ships do not call at Cape Town either going or coming.

This was recommended by Principal Medical

Officer

Officer Natal and sent on by me to Base.

Received large indents from the Units at Rustenburg, which will be complied with and sent out by convoy tomorrow.

28th March 1901. The 21st Brigade Field Hospital was detained yesterday owing to a break on the line, and arrived here today. It has gone straight on to Pienaars River its transport follows tomorrow. I saw A.A.G. for Transport yesterday and settled about this. General Plumers force should be at Pienaars River today. Colonel Beatsons column for which this Field Hospital is detailed does not leave for a day or two yet.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) R. J. T. Simpson,

Major R.A.M.C.

for P.M.O. F.F.(Absent on duty).

Diary -

4823/7/1379.

From
The Principal Medical Officer,
Field Force, South Africa.

To
The Director General
Army Medical Service,
London.

Pretoria, 5th April 1901.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following in continuation of my diary -

29th March 1901.

Colonel Sloggett sent in a list of personnel remaining at Deelfontein, including engineers for electric light, pumping station, laundry, six cooks and a large native establishment. The engagement of these was sanctioned by Surgeon General Wilson at his recent inspection, and a draft for Army Orders was sent in today.

The four ambulances which were to be sent out with the Victorian Mounted Rifles (Colonel Beatsons Column) have had to be cut down to three owing to scarcity of mules. This leaves eleven, which should suffice if the railway is repaired and used.

31st March 1901.

Arriving in Pretoria late last night from the South and found many questions to settle which have been kept

kept over for me.. As a large body of troops are moving north to Pietersburg, I have ordered the Stationary Hospital of 50 beds at Pienaars River to be raised to 100, and in addition to the two railway carriages set apart for this northern line and fixed up for sick and wounded I have sanctioned the Princess Christian Hospital train to be kept for present in Pretoria for purpose of bringing sick and wounded from the posts up this northern line.

All medical arrangements are working smoothly and there is no undue pressure.

1st April 1901.

I called on General Officer Commanding in Chief and reported general condition down the line. I stated the condition of Cape Town to be worse in my opinion than is generally supposed. The stringency of the regulations against Plague induces people to conceal the disease. The Kaffir population is overcrowded and I was informed that they scatter on a case of Plague occurring in any house.

The Chief handed me a telegram he had just received from General Officer Commanding Cape Town, stating that the Civil Authorities objected to separate Plague hospitals for troops - that soldiers and sailors as well as civilians stricken with Plague should be sent by train from Simonstown to Cape Town, 20 miles, and thence by wagons 2 miles to Plague Hospital. The General Officer Commanding Cape Town stated that the Admiral refused and

wished

wished for a joint Naval and Military Plague Hospital at Simonstown.

I explained that it was likely that the Civil Authorities may not be able to accommodate the civil sick and that the only safe course for us is to look after our own. I submitted the following telegram which was accepted and sent to General Officer Commanding Cape Town -

"Military cases should be treated in Military "hospitals. Your proposal for Military Plague camp is "approved. Arrange with Admiral for joint camp at Simons-"town for Navy and Army. Evacuate Cape Town as far as "possible and send up country every man whose employment "in Cape Town is not absolutely necessary. Maitland Camp "must be cleared of every soldiers and reserved for Plague "Hospital. All troops arriving must be passed direct from "Transport to trains for conveyance up country. Details "for home should not be detained in Cape Town but must "pass direct on to homeward bound ships. Any invalids "who cannot be embarked at once must be detained at Wynberg "pending embarkation and on no account sent to Woodstock. "Whenever practicable arrangements should be made to "embark details for home at Port Elizabeth or East London "in transports that will not touch at Cape Town. Officers' "wives particularly those whose husbands are at the front "and do not belong to the permanent garrison should as

far

"far as possible be induced to proceed home".

2nd April 1901.

It appears the civilians in Johannesburg are anxious to get their club "Wanderers" at present occupied by No.6 General Hospital. I have replied to Adjutant General saying I trust the matter might stand over two months. It is a serious and costly thing to move a General Hospital, and in the present stage of the war, I think it unwise to make any change. I may possibly require more hospital accommodation in some other part of the country later on, and then I could fall back on No.6 General Hospital.

There are a large number of columns now in the field and others are being formed for which I must provide small units.

The original field units have been divided and each of these divided units perform the double duty of Bearer Company and Field Hospital. This works well. As I have found the above number not sufficient for the many columns, I have improvised units composed of a few Royal Army Medical Corps, Non-commissioned Officers and men, the remainder Cape Medical Staff Corps, or St.John Ambulance men. I am also using what remains of the Natal Imperial Bearer Corps.

3rd April 1901.

Heavy rain continues and it appears to be more or less general all over the country.

All

All my reports from the various garrisons and columns over South Africa are more or less favorable, and there is no undue pressure on any hospital.

Left Pretoria Saturday 16th March in mail train and arrived in Cape Town Tuesday 19th March at 8 a.m. I read the file of correspondence and orders at the base relative to the outbreak of Plague. I inspected every place in connection with the troops, avoiding as much as possible all matters of direct reference to the civil population.

I very soon came to the conclusion that the Plague had come to stay as the bug had found in Cape Town a most congenial soil. The sanitation of the town is admitted to have been very bad.

The population is of a most mixed character, and contains all shades of colour. Overcrowding is the rule and not the exception. Most of the inhabitants resent and avoid the stringent sanitary rules now in force, and I consider these rules, though sound in theory, are most

likely

likely to defeat the object aimed at. As an instance of this I was told that a Kaffir was found ill with Plague he was removed to Plague Hospital and about 20 kaffirs living in same house were ordered to observation camp. These latter solved the difficulty by scattering themselves all over the town and so avoided going into segregation camp.

I gathered that the Civil Sanitary Authorities wished to dictate all the measures we should take against the spread of the disease, and they objected to our establishing a Plague Hospital on Mr.C.Rhodes' estate outside Cape Town. They desired to have one central hospital for Civil and Military, and they even proposed to bring all Plague cases by train from Simonstown (20 miles by train and 2 by wagon).

A case of Plague, having occurred in the Main Barracks it was proposed to send about 90 Ordnance and Army Service Corps men out to Camp, but the Principal Medical Officer Base would not agree to paralyse two services at the base, especially as the Barracks were practically empty, so the men continued at their duties and were frequently inspected.

I addressed a memorandum to General Officer Commanding Cape Town pointing out the serious condition of affairs, stating that the epidemic was come to stay and

that

that evacuation on our part should be the object aimed at- or it should be carried out as far as practicable.

I pointed out the necessity of having our own Hospitals separate from Civil, as it is most probable that the present civil arrangements will be found inadequate.

I found the Principal Medical Officer had given the Civil Authorities some assistance but we could not spare disinfectors for town use.

22nd March 1901. The Roslyn Castle returned from Durban and was quarantined. Some days previously she had left Cape Town for Ceylon with Boer prisoners but calling at Durban one of the crew was found to be ill with Plague, and a Cable at the same time was received from Ceylon saying these prisoners could not be accommodated on the Island.

The Roslyn Castle was therefore ordered back to Cape Town. Colonel Supple R.A.M.C. and family are on board.

23rd March 1901. Left by mail for Deelfontein.

25th March 1901. Inspected Hospital and arranged for the taking it over from Yeomanry Authorities of equipment &c.

Some of the Staff have elected to remain and all the Native Establishment. The hospital has its own laundry and its own electric lights. I engage to work it as

efficiently

efficiently as it was ever worked and at less expense.

27th March 1901. Inspected Bloemfontein.

29th March 1901. Inspected Kroonstad.

I found all medical arrangements working most satisfactorily. The general opinion is that Enteric is on decline.

At Kroonstad several deep wells have been made by diamond drills and a sufficient supply of good drinking water has been obtained.

The Municipal water supply of Kroonstad is bad and there has been a severe epidemic of Enteric among the Civil population. I believe our troops would have been healthier if they had obeyed orders and only used well water, but it appears they never hesitated to use town water when they required a drink. I have come to the conclusion that when there are two supplies of water one good and one bad that the soldier will use which-ever supply gives him less trouble.

Arrived in Pretoria 8 p.m. 30th March 1901.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd) W.D.Wilson
Surg:Genl:
P.M.O.F.F.S.A.

Diary

4823/7/1388.

From the Principal Medical Officer

Field Force, South Africa.

To the Director General,

Army Medical Services,

London.

Pretoria, 12th April 1901.

Sir,

I have the honor to report the following in continuation of my diary:-

4th April 1901.

I have nominated Lieut: Colonel Trevor R.A.M.C. as Principal Medical Officer, General Elliot's division now forming at Kroonstad, and Lieut: Colonel R.O.Milward R.A.M.C. as Principal Medical Officer to General Featherstonhaugh column, now forming at Middleburg.

I am informed that Barny Barnato's house in Johannesburg is now ready for convalescent officers. I am moving up Sister Gray from Claremont Sanitarium Cape Town to be superintendent.

I am establishing a small hospital 50 beds to be increased to 100 if necessary at Warmbads on line to Pietersburg. The hotel will be commandeered for this purpose. This is in addition to the hospital already established at Pienaars River.

5th April

5th April 1901.

A serious outbreak of Enteric is reported among the Civil population Krugersdorp.

The Senior Medical Officer there has lent marquees and given assistance. I have asked that the garrison be kept separate in every way from the civil population. Some time ago fearing an outbreak, I moved the Military Hospital out of buildings in the town into Camp.

6th April 1901.

Called on General Officer Commanding in Chief, and represented that the removal of No.6 General Hospital to a new site would be costly, no matter how the work can be carried out. I suggested to postpone action till a permanent site be selected for camp for troops on termination of war.

I pointed out that evacuation with safety would take about 2 months. I have stopped admissions to No.6 General Hospital as far as is possible, and I have submitted the above in writing.

The Military Governor has asked if I can evacuate one of the School Hospitals. I have agreed to close No.1 Boys School and hand it back to Civil

authorities

authorities. This will reduce No.19 General Hospital to the status of a Station Hospital. There are now over 1,000 vacant beds in Pretoria.

I am now very short of ambulance wagons and tongas due to my having to detail carriage to so many columns. I have consequently called on transport to let me have 20 Cape carts. A very large number of these have been collected all over the country and they can be utilized for carriage of sick, and will be most useful with mounted troops.

8th April 1901.

Colonel Gubbins R.A.M.C. has just returned from visiting the Northern line on which General Plumers force is now operating. He got as far as Nylstroom He reports that all medical arrangements are most satisfactory. There is a hospital at Pienaars River of 100 beds. He has commandeered a large hotel at Warmbads containing 50 beds. As the troops advance more reception hospitals will be established as required. The Princess Christian train has been ordered up to Nylstroom to avail there for orders. Nursing sisters have been detailed for duty up the line, and will be sent forward

as

as soon as it is safe to do so, and as soon as accommodation can be prepared for them.

9th April 1901.

Colonel Notter R.A.M.C. has been recalled to Pretoria to give his opinion on a new site for permanent camp for troops holding Pretoria.

He has already selected a site to East of Pretoria. The objections to this are that it is on private ground, and the owner states there is gold on the estate, so purchase will be very expensive.

The Engineer in Chief also says the available ground is not extensive enough. The new site suggested is on Government land, South West of Pretoria, and to West of road to Potchefstroom. The Engineer in Chief states that this site will fulfil the conditions laid down by me as essential. The ground is high and consists of about 3,000 acres.

10th April 1901.

I now find I must supply Medical Officers to the Yeomanry Regiments. It appears the Inspector General Yeomanry cabled home for 16 officers of which 6 are

are required at once, and he was directed to apply to me. I need hardly say I never estimated for Regimental Yeomanry Medical Officers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Yourobedient Servant,

(Sd.) W. D. Wilson

Surgeon General,
P.M.O. F.F.S.A.

4823/7/1395.

From

The Principal Medical Officer,

S.African Field Force.

To

The Director General,

Army Medical Services.

Pretoria,

19th April 1901.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the continuation of my diary :-

19th April. 1901.

Visited proposed new site for Cantonments namely Mooiplaats. It is high above the ground originally selected, and to which I objected. The old ground was on a slope below Mooiplaats, but the present proposed site is a plateau on the range itself. It appears to me, that the only question is, will this site contaminate our present water supply, I will let Colonel Notter settle this.

I also visited the Race Course Hospital :Major Burton R.A.M.C. complained of his transport animals. He has all the Medical transport duty of Pretoria and its surroundings & he requires over fifty good mules to perform this duty. On account of columns going out, all his carefully tended mules have been taken, and he received 27 very feeble animals instead. He without delay asked a Veterinary Officer to inspect the lot: the latter at

once

once directed that two of the mules be shot on account of Glanders, and three were removed on account of being sick.

12 April. 1901. Col: Notter has arrived in order to assist in selecting a site for permanent Garrison.

I have wired to Prof: Simpson still on Plague duty, asking if he intends joining the Enteric Commission and where and when. It may be remarked that the services of Prof: Simpson were in the first instance asked for one week only: I was not informed that it was extended to one month, but he has remained absent from the work he undertook more than two months.

13th April. 1901. The G.O.C. in C. informs me that Secretary to Government has threatened Military, Capetown with an action before the High Court, if a Military Plague Hospital is established; contending that by law all Plague case must go to the Civil Hospital. I suggested to take legal advice before any further action on our part. The Chief agreed, and asked me to go at once to Cape town, and to take Colonel Notter with me.

14th April. 1901. Surgeon General Wilson and Col:Notter left for Cape town by mail this morning.

A good many cases of Enteric Fever having been reported in the weekly returns from Bloemfontein as having been contracted at Sannahs Post, the P.M.O. Bloemfontein

was

was directed to make an inspection of that post. From his report, it appears that this statement was misleading cases were sent into Sannahs Post from columns passing through that place, and the number of cases originating at Sannahs Post itself has much diminished of late. The sanitary conditions there have much improved: a staff of natives is constantly employed cleaning up the camp. Latrines on the removal system have been substituted for the trench latrines: all refuse is removed to a distance and burned. Two of the three filter beds have been recharged, and the charging of the third bed is now in hand. It will be remembered that the Bloemfontein Water Supply comes from this place, and it is for this that the filter beds are provided. All drinking water is being boiled. I understand that the proposed new site for the permanent Garrison of this place, promises to be a very good one. It is about three miles from the town, on a high level it is all Government ground, which will simplify the question of encroachments. It is at present without any habitations on it, the drainage will be taken into a valley on the side furthest from the present water supply, which cannot become affected in any way. A separate supply from the present source will be provided for the Camp: as has been said before, the present supply is excellent.

The

15th April./901. The weekly sanitary report of the P.M.O. Johannesburg District, shows that Enteric Fever is decreasing in the District, except at Krugersdorp, where there is a slight increase. Some of these cases come in from columns in the vicinity, the Hospital has recently been put on a better footing and slightly enlarged. The health at Komati Poort, Hector Spruit, Malalene, Kaapmuiden and Barberton, is reported by P.M.O. Eastern Line to be very bed, owing to the prevalence of Malarial Fevers. These places are all in the lower valley. At Krokodil Poort, and Nelspruit, Malarial fevers are diminishing: at the other stations in the Valley, the health is good. The general health along the rest of the Eastern line is improving. There is a considerable movement along this line at present, and the admissions to hospitals there may be expected to increase. Accommodation for a certain number of sick is now provided on one train running between Middleburg and Pretoria daily, so that cases from the posts between these two places can be readily brought in here.

According to reports from the P.M.O.Kroonstadt the prevalence of Plague at Capetown is having a beneficial effect on the general sanitary condition of the town. Special efforts are being made to obviate all possible defects,

defects, and there is a general improvement. As regards the General Hospital there, pure drinking water is now laid on from tanks erected close to the boring, and kept full by hand pumping. The supply from the boring is improving, and it is hoped will ultimately prove sufficient for all purposes.

Col: Donovan P.M.O. General French's force reports under date 8th April, that the health of the whole force is very good: Enteric Fever is more or less prevalent in all the columns, but the type is mild, and the disease is not unduly prevalent in any one column or corps

16th April./901. A considerable mortality among rats is reported from Port Elizabeth, but no cases of Plague have as yet been reported. I understand that Prof: Simpson has been there of late looking into the general conditions. All precautions have been taken already, and a supply of serum was sent there some days ago from the Base.

Two officers and thirty men of the New South Wales Army Medical Corps have arrived at Port Elizabeth, and have been ordered to Pretoria, where most of the field work is going on. These, like all troops coming from infected areas are kept apart for inspection till the tenth day from their departure from the infected area.

The

The cold weather is now setting in, which should further improve the health of the troops.

7th April. 1901. Nothing of any interest has occurred to day.

8th April. 1901 A case of Plague is reported as having occurred in a native at Port Elizabeth on the 16th. P.M.O. L.of C., reports that all precautions taken in Capetown are in force at Port Elizabeth also.

Colonel Donovan P.M.O., of General French's force, with General French, arrived in Johannesburg yesterday.

The P.M.O., Norvals Pont reports that no grain is received there from Capetown: but the appearance of Plague at Port Elizabeth leaves only East London as the one uninfected port in Cape Colony now. Nothing has been reported as yet from Durban, or Delagoa Bay: as far as Durban is concerned, the Natal authorities have always shown themselves very anxious about the introduction of any infectious disease, and there is little to fear on that side, as far as precautions will serve to prevent its introduction. A large part of the supplies for the Transvaal, though not the whole, now come along the Eastern line from Delagoa Bay.

I have etc:,

(sd.) R.J.S.Simpson.
Major R.A.M.C.
for P,M.O. F.F.absent on duty.

The cold weather is now setting in, which should further improve the health of the troops.

[illegible] April. 1901. Nothing of any interest has occurred to day.

[illegible] April. 1901. A case of Plague is reported as having occurred in a native at Port Elizabeth on the 16th. F.M.O. L.of C., reports that all precautions taken in Capetown are in force at Port Elizabeth also.

Colonel Donovan F.M.O., of General French's force, with General French, arrived in Johannesburg yesterday.

The F.M.O., Norvela Post reports that no praise is received there from Capetown: but the appearance of Plague at Port Elizabeth leaves only East London as the one unaffected port in Cape Colony now. Nothing has been reported as yet from Durban, or Delagoa Bay: as far as Durban is concerned, the Natal authorities have always shown themselves very anxious about the introduction of any infectious disease, and there is little to fear on that side, as far as precautions will serve to prevent its introduction. A large part of the supplies for the Transvaal, through out the whole, now come along the Eastern line from Delagoa Bay.

I have etc:,

(sd.) R.J.S.Simpson.
Major R.A.M.C.
for F.M.O. V.V.Armies in Africa.