

Rules for the affiliation and guidance of sub-dépôts were approved.

The Committee of the Irish Farmers' Gift Day has allocated the sum of £250 for the supply of surgical dressings, and the dépôt staff will be kept busy for the next few weeks in getting these supplies ready for dispatch to the Near East. The first consignment has been already sent off, in a large lorry load of strong packing cases and bales, representing two weeks' work of voluntary lady workers. The dépôt is now in full working order, seven large workrooms being used by the volunteers, of whom about 350 have already registered.

## Scotland.

### PROVISION FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS IN SCOTLAND.

THE Scottish scheme for providing permanently for soldiers disabled in the war has advanced another stage towards realization. As was stated in the JOURNAL for November 20th, 1915 (p. 763), the scheme originated with the Scottish Veterans' Garden City Association, and aims at enabling soldiers, whose economic value in the labour market has fallen on account of the loss of a limb or some other disability, to find homes and training in some useful work whereby they may supplement their pensions. The Earl of Wemyss, who presided over a meeting of the Association on January 7th in Edinburgh, explained that the movement was not a charity in the ordinary sense of the word, but was an effort in the direction of allowing maimed men to retain their independence on returning to civil life. It was reported that representative committees had been formed in several of the larger cities of Scotland and even in more distant places (America and India). It was announced that a suitable site was available at Longniddry. The first section of the plan which could now be proceeded with would embrace forty houses and two workshops, and extension could take place later. It was unanimously agreed to accept the offer of ground at Longniddry, and the Earl of Wemyss, Lord Salvesen, and Sir Henry Ballantyne were nominated as trustees.

## Canada.

### STERILIZATION OF WATER BY ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS.

THE use of ultra-violet rays for the sterilization of water was introduced last summer at the military camp at Niagara with most encouraging result, for not a single case of typhoid fever was contracted at the camp. Eleven cases of the disease occurred, but, without exception, the men had been in camp less than eleven days and had come from places where typhoid was present. The water used at the camp was taken from the Niagara River, which gave the usual counts of 5,000 per cubic centimetre, and frequently contained the colon bacillus in 100,000 c.c.m., and not infrequently even in 100,000 c.c.m. After exposure to the ultra-violet rays no bacteria were found in 50 c.c.m. of water, but as a precaution two subsequent exposures were made. Chlorination was used before installing the ultra-violet ray, and the high bacterial content of the water made it necessary to use from 1 to 1.4 parts per million, which at times gave an unpleasant taste to the water. Fifteen hundred gallons an hour running past three lamps gave an adequate supply of good water for the camp. The cost of installation was about 20 to 25 cents a head of soldiers in the camp.

### THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

During the first year of the war—that is, from September, 1914, to September 30th, 1915, the sum subscribed by the Dominion to the Patriotic Fund for the support of soldiers' families was 5,350,000 dollars—an average of 70 cents a head. This year it is estimated that an average of 1 dollar a head, or a total of 7,500,000 dollars, will be required.

### No. 7 OVERSEAS STATIONARY HOSPITAL.

The offer of a stationary hospital for overseas service was made some time ago by Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, and was accepted recently. The personnel has been recruited from the province of Nova Scotia and the

unit is now in training at Halifax. The list of officers, several of whom belong to the medical staff of the university, is as follows: Lieutenant-Colonel John Stewart, of Halifax, officer commanding; Majors E. V. Hogan and L. M. Murray; Captains J. A. Murray, V. M. Mackay, F. V. Woodbury, E. Kirk Maclellan, John Rankin, Kenneth A. MacKenzie, S. J. MacLeod; Lieutenant K. F. Woodbury, dental surgeon; honorary Lieutenant and Quartermaster Walter Taylor; and honorary Lieutenant S. R. Balcom, dispenser. The non-commissioned officers and men have been recruited from all parts of the province, and include a number of students from King's College and the universities of Mount Allison, Acadia, and Dalhousie. An equipment fund has been opened and it is hoped to collect the sum of 12,000 dols.; a committee, of which Dr. G. B. Cutten, President of Acadia University, Dr. H. S. MacKenzie, President of the University of Dalhousie, Dr. B. C. Borden, President of Mount Allison University, are members, has been formed to direct the disposition of the funds subscribed.

## Correspondence.

### LEPROSY AND LEPER HOUSES.

SIR,—In your interesting review of Dr. Mercier's Fitz-Patrick Lectures, on p. 54, there appears a geographical error which I beg to point out, and which I have corrected in reviewing the same work in another journal. The "Shireburn Hospital in Yorkshire, for 65 lepers," should read the "Sherburn Hospital, Durham," to which institution the description applies. It is true that there was an ancient ecclesiastical foundation at the village of Shireburn, in Yorkshire, but it was only a very small one, and it was not a leper house. This institution, to which I have the honour of being the physician-in-charge, was founded in 1181 as a leper house by Bishop Pudsey. When leprosy died out in England towards the close of the Middle Ages, the hospital was devoted to charitable purposes, and later still the Charity Commissioners reconstituted it into a modern hospital for medical cases, curable or incurable, together with a large out-patient department, at which there are several thousand attendances annually. At the same time the ancient rule of master and brethren still persists, for there is accommodation for 15 "in brethren," aged men of good character who have resided within the diocese of Durham, who are cared for in their declining years. There are also "out-brethren" and "out-sisters," as well as a system of educational scholarships. Thus, the Sherburn Hospital has transformed itself in accordance with the altered conditions of society, so that, as a modern chronicler has aptly put it, "the great traditions of the past can be wisely, happily, and usefully combined with the highest aspirations of the present and future."—I am, etc.,

G. NORMAN MEACHEN.

Sherburn Hospital, near Durham,  
Jan. 8th.

### STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES AND THE RED CROSS SCHEME.

SIR,—The letter of Dr. Ferdinand Rees is to the point. The whole future of nursing hangs in the balance. Nothing but the immediate State registration of the fully-qualified nurse can ever safeguard the status of the nursing profession. The danger of the untrained V.A.D. worker should be recognized and met.—I am, etc.,

Whitley Bay, Jan. 9th.

NEVILLE A. EDDLESTONE.

### THE TONSILS.

SIR,—In his letter on the question of tonsillectomy, appearing in your issue of January 8th, Mr. William Hill, whilst advocating total removal of the glands as the operation of choice in most cases, states that he, in company with most others, "would hesitate to eviscerate the entire tonsillar bed in trained singers and other professional voice producers, on account of the danger of altering the form and deranging the muscular mechanism of the fauces from post-operative adhesions."

I am not quite clear what Mr. Hill desires to convey by the words "entire tonsillar bed," but from the text presume