

Great Growth of Army Medical Corps Since We Entered War

Special Correspondence
WASHINGTON, D. C., 1918.

THE right hand of the Army is the ordnance department which supplies the arms and ammunition with which to make possible a victory over the enemy. The left hand of the Army is the Army Medical Corps, which maintains the health of the men behind the guns at a high standard.

When America entered the war months elapsed before the first contingent of United States soldiers actually stood face to face with the Hun. But with the first assignment to camp of drafted men, Surgeon General William C. Gorgas and the Army Medical Corps were called upon immediately to fight disease.

The growth of the fighting arm of the Army, while, perforce, rapid, could not tend, at least, over a brief month. But the very act of that growth threw upon the Army Medical Corps the responsibility of assuring an unimpeded expansion through the control of disease. Consequently, the development of the corps reached its most important phases of America's war program, and involves the medical profession of the entire country, with its vast scientific knowledge that implies.

On April 1, 1917, just six days prior to our declaration of war against Germany, the Medical Corps of the Army included less than 450 officers in the regular service, and about 2,600 medical men, signed up, but inactive, in the Army Medical Reserve Corps. The Women's Nursing Corps numbered less than 400. Bed capacity in Army hospitals, not including limited facilities at Army posts, numbered 3,843. Including post hospital facilities, the bed capacity reached approximately 5,000.

A year later, when America is entering the second year of the great war, the total strength of the corps is far more than 100,000, including the enlisted personnel. Nearly 1,000 officers represent the regular service, with reserve corps officers numbering more than 18,000, of which total all but about 3,000 are on active duty. The Army Medical Nurse Corps now includes more than 7,000 graduate nurses.

Completed Army hospitals in this country today have a capacity of nearly 60,000, while extensions which will bring that figure up to 88,000 are under way. An additional increase of 12,000 beds is contemplated, which will make the bed accommodations reach the 100,000 mark.

The accomplishments of those twelve months between the two sets of figures made one of the most important chapters in the history of American participation in the world struggle for democracy. Men gathered from every walk of life may, in a relatively brief time, under competent instructors, be drilled into efficient soldiers. But to establish a medical corps of such magnitude to care for the vast Army building necessitated erecting an establishment of the finest medical timber the country had to offer—men and their respective fields of medical endeavor would carry the weight of the nation's health, bringing under a single roof in every camp where American soldiers were training, specializing in every branch of medical work, and of providing such equipment and appliances as would permit of the highest type of service being rendered.

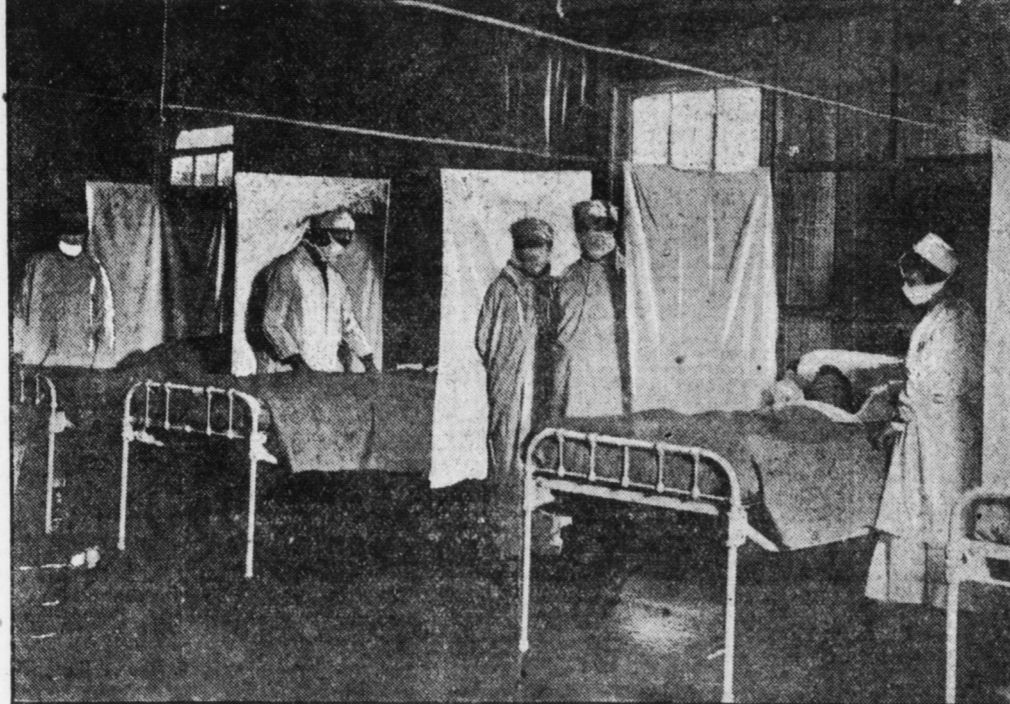
The establishment and equipping of a base hospital at each of the National Army and National Guard training camps, many of them inaccessible from the standpoint of transportation, is perhaps the greatest single feat undertaken and successfully accomplished by the Army Medical Corps. Yet today a visitor at a base hospital, one of which has been in operation more than a few months, and all of which are hundreds of beds larger than the average civil hospital, finds a thoroughly organized, running with the precision and quickness of a city institution of long standing.

Up to April, 1917, there were but seven hospitals, aside from post hospitals, in the United States. Today, twenty-nine are equipped to care for more than 1,000 patients each; seven, with extensions now under way, are completed, are capable of accommodating 2,000 patients each. Three hospitals are equipped at ports from which troops embark for France, two are permanent base hospitals, three are camps with specialized training hospitals and thirty-two are base hospitals for the National Army and National Guard camps.

This equipment represents only those hospitals in the United States. In addition, it was necessary to build and equip in France facilities for caring for our sick and wounded overseas. From the office of the surgeon general in Washington had to be built up a machine which would function efficiently on the other side of the ocean and insure to American troops abroad the same skilled medical attention they would receive at home hospitals. Details of this work have not been made public, but it is known that accommodations and equipment abroad, building and to be built, will be sufficient to care for perhaps 25 per cent of our total troops abroad.

A year ago the Army Medical Corps was presented at the War Department, including Surgeon General Gorgas and twenty clerks, who occupied three rooms in a corner of the State, War and Navy building. On December 1 last 185 officers were detailed here. 535 clerks were employed and 300 office rooms required to house the corps. Five whole buildings are now occupied, and parts of two others, while an additional two will probably be needed in the near future. Six thousand telegrams and 5,000 other communications have been received and acted upon in a single day.

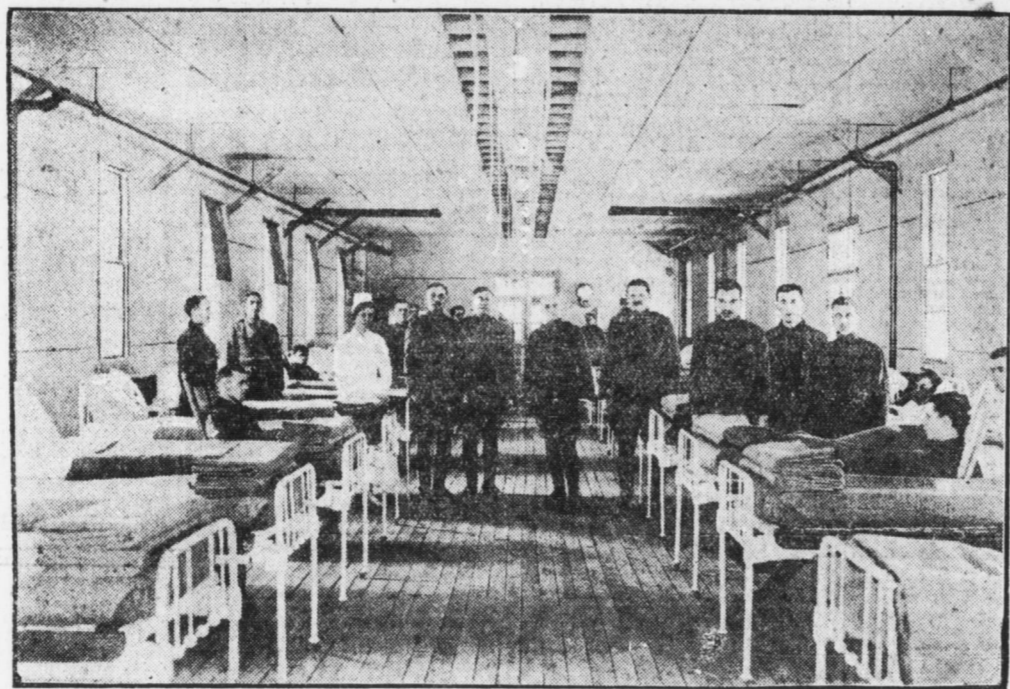
At every base hospital are specialists in all fields of medical science which may be called upon in the proper care of our soldiers. The personnel, in fact, of these hospitals is a smaller medical corps, such as is under the surgeon general in Washington in an active capacity. At the head of the hospitals are the surgeon in charge and under him one or more specialists in orthopedics, neurology, eye, ear, nose, throat and brain work, X-ray specialists, etc.



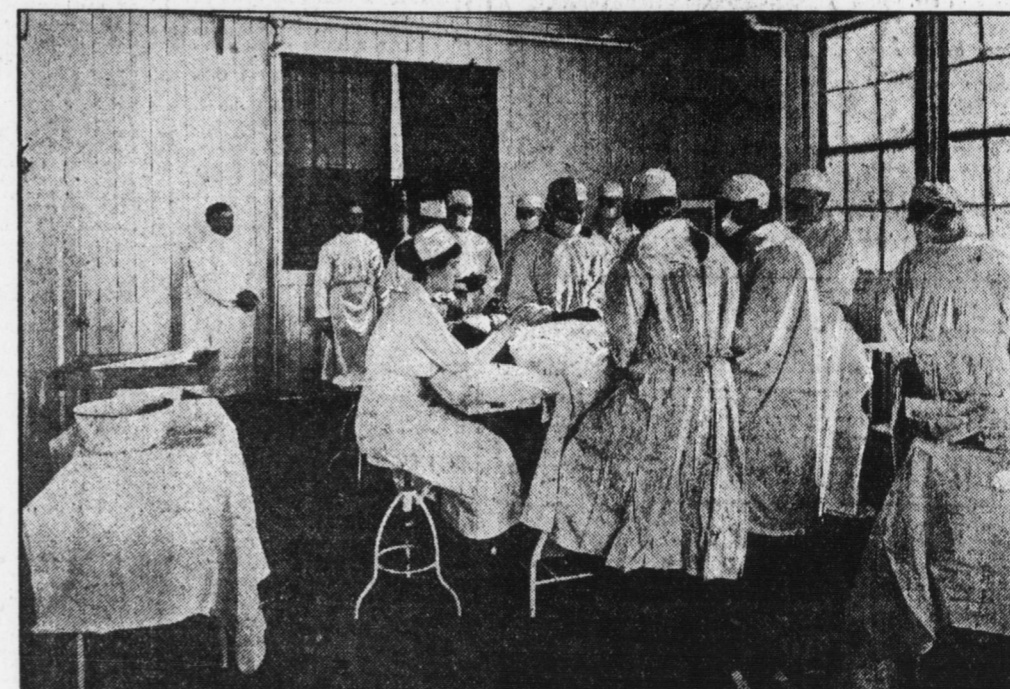
SECTION OF AN INFECTIOUS WARD OF BASE HOSPITAL AT CAMP BEAUREGARD, LA.



IN THE PATHOLOGICAL WARD OF A BASE HOSPITAL.



SOLDIERS IN A MEDICAL WARD.



THE OPERATING ROOM OF A BASE HOSPITAL.

headed by Maj. Theodore C. Janeway, late professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins, is now directed by Lieut. Col. W. F. Longcope, professor of medicine at Columbia University. Similar boards of specialists chose for the staff of each hospital the men who supervise the physical branches of medical work. The surgeon general's office in its present state consists of fourteen divisions and thirteen special sections, of which are a direct outgrowth of the war. Through the division of training camps student medical officers are put through a rigorous three months' course of instruction covering every kind of administrative duty required in the service and every branch of military medicine.

Survey parties are sent out to inspect the food supply, under the food division, improve cooking and service conditions, maintain food economy and prevent wastage, yet keep up a suitable Army ration. Everything relating to the hygiene of troops in camps is supervised by the division of field sanitation, from mosquito prevention,

drainage, ventilation and the control of epidemic diseases to the collection and co-ordination of statistical records of the sick and wounded. Working in co-operation with this division is the division of infectious diseases, which selects bacteriologists, pathologists and other laboratory men and fits out laboratories with standard equipment.

The examination of all enlisted men and company officers for the isolation and rejection of the mentally unfit is carried on by the division of psychology. The mentally superior, through

this system, by proper assignment and promotion, are encouraged, while data are supplied for equalizing organizations in respect to the mental qualifications necessary in recent warfare. Some superior enlisted men have been sent to the officers' training camps.

Because the allied armies encountered a large number of neurotic, mental and other defects, who soon became useless for field service, the division of neurology and psychiatry was established. This division eliminates from the Army those who, while physically sound, are incapable of becoming soldiers by reason of insanity, mental defect, drug habit and other nervous disorders. It also cares for and treats insane and nervous patients in military hospitals.

Under the Army Nurse Corps are recruited nurses for the service. Contrary to popular belief the Red Cross has no contact with the Army Medical Corps in the matter of actual nursing. They have supplied many nurses for this corps, but once assigned to the corps, they are no longer a so-called Red Cross nurse. Only nurses belonging to the Army

Nurse Corps are allowed within the zone of the Army.

Both the French and British missions to this country have members attached to the surgeon general's office. In addition, at every camp, are representatives of these missions, who are giving instruction to the soldiers training along different lines. After having served in the trenches these instructors are able to lend to their work a realism which could be obtained in any other way, and can bring home to our boys in khaki the real work of the war.

Practically all hospitals connected with the National Army and National Guard are similar in the matter of construction, equipment and appliances, except where special work may demand a larger scale of equipment.

Built on the "pavilion" plan, every ward has ample means of getting sunlight and fresh air, as only on one side is it connected with the long halls which keep the hospital as a whole under what might be termed a single roof. Each ward also has its own porch, screened for convalescents.

To give a description of the many rooms in which special work is carried on would mean giving a picture of a modern, thoroughly equipped hospital, which treated all possible ailments of man. Despite the fact that the buildings are only frame structures, many of them as yet unpainted, there is no atmosphere of a "make-shift" once the hospital has been entered.

Two and a Half Million Club Women Work to Help Win War

Special Correspondence
WASHINGTON, D. C., 1918.

WHEN the representatives of the 2,500,000 women affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs met at their fourteenth biennial convention at Hot Springs, Ark., on April 29, it is their hope to bring to that meeting the quarter of a million dollars which it has been the mission of a group of their members to collect for a definite war purpose.

The corps of women selected for this work is known as the war victory commission. They represent every section of the country, and the fund they are raising is to be spent for military recreational houses, dispensaries and other war relief work for the American boys in France. This was the federation's project which loomed largest in the mind of its president, Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, at the board meeting held recently at Hot Springs, Va.

Every member of the board present at that record-making meeting was deeply impressed with the opportunity and necessity of making this supreme effort for the men and boys so dear to the hearts of American womanhood," said Mrs. Cowles in talking of this big united project of all the women of all the clubs in the general federation.

"We do not blind our eyes to the calls upon us, and yet more calls, that have been made and will be made upon our time, our talents and our pocket-books, but we will not be excused for failing to meet this great need which has developed from the mobilization of our Army and its work across the sea."

standing and co-operation of those who design, make, sell and wear garments." The question of food production and conservation among women allied with the General Federation of Women's Clubs is a matter of pride with Mrs. Cowles. "When war was proclaimed a year ago we were holding a council meeting in New Orleans," she says. "By April 12 we had a war emergency food pledge made and distributed in many cases signed." This pledge reads:

"In view of the military necessity of conserving the food supply of the nation, I hereby pledge myself to do my bit as follows: I will use only those amounts of food required for adequate nourishment. I will endeavor to control waste in all kinds of material in the household, and to live simply. I will begin now."

"Through the state federation chairmen we had these pledges scattered all over the country, and they served as a most valuable conservation purpose in many thousands of households before the food administration was formed," continued Mrs. Cowles. "When that office was established by the government and issued its cards the federation relinquished its individual pledge to co-operate in the national movement."

"It is an interesting fact, however, that supplementary to our federation food pledge our home economy department issued a masterly little bulletin, entitled 'What is Adequate Nourishment.' In this useful brochure our daily food supply is treated briefly, intelligently and in understandable form."

"In my opinion the General Federation of Women's Clubs is a more intensely active organization than any other in the world, and it stands as one of the strongest moral forces of our country, possessing as another instance of this activity, as well as its desire for the national welfare, as the women's part of the White House."

days after war was proclaimed by President Wilson. The copy of the message produced by Mrs. Cowles reads: "Whereas the war is upon us; our sons and husbands are to be called to the defense of our country; our women must work and suffer; Be it resolved, That the women of the General Federation of Women's Clubs unite in an appeal to our government to take the initiative in the passage of national prohibition, thereby eliminating material and moral waste."

human efficiency. "The two great objects in our departments of work in this time of war are: First, to be of the utmost service in time of need; second, and quite as important, to keep alive in every community the sense of law and order, and to preserve the security of the permanent elements that must rebuild society when the tumult of war is past."

"Whatever we do must be constructive in purpose and help in reconstruction processes. The development and conservation of human efficiency is fundamentally concerned with food conservation. The term 'conservation' as used in conjunction with the work must in no way be limited to the department of our work termed 'conservation,' which up to this time has dealt solely with the natural resources of the country."

"Our department of home economics is defined as that group which deals with the development and conservation of human efficiency; 'public health' preserves it; 'legislation' protects it; 'civil service reform' provides the right machinery for its protection; 'education' presents the means by which we do things well; 'industrial and social conditions' seek to provide the right environment or condition for the development of human efficiency, and the department of 'civics' applies and localizes it."

"In Paris. HUMORIST RING LARDNER said on his return from Paris: "Restaurant prices in Paris are terrible. In the best restaurants a meal will cost you quite \$5. And at that you won't get enough to eat. "Everybody is always hungry. I met a pretty girl in the Rue de la Paix the other morning. She was wearing one of those new barrel-shaped capes, and I complimented her on her appearance. "Really," I said, "you look sweet enough to eat." "I do eat," she said eagerly. "Where shall we go—Ballard's or Larus's—or, better still, both places?"