RECRUITING IN SCOTLAND.

By Lieuten-ant-Colonel J. H. E. Austin.
Royal Army Medical Corps.

Recruiting in Scotland probably differs in some respects from recruiting elsewhere, by reason of characteristics peculiar to Scotsmen generally, especially as regards their clannishness and thrifty dispositions, and the care they take in "looking before they leap." The first trait is often to be observed in the recruiting office in Edinburgh, where, if a batch of recruits from one locality come up together for enlistment, if one of their number is rejected and the others passed, the eligible ones often refuse to be attested, so that it is then desirable to stretch the already elastic tests a little further, and secure the unwilling ones by passing their "pal" also, the latter being got rid of later on, unless a very unexpected improvement takes place in his condition. Their thrift is looked after in the annual training of some of the special reserve battalions, which are held as early in the year as possible to enable the men to get to their work as fishermen the moment the training is over, and as many of these men come from out-of-the-way places in the North of Scotland, they get their fare paid by Government from where their homes are situated to a point nearer their ultimate destination, and so save a considerable amount of money which otherwise would have to come out of their own pockets.

It seems curious that though Scotsmen are found in numbers in every part of the world, and usually doing well, so many of them show a great disinclination to leave their native localities to go abroad as soldiers. They are quite willing to enlist in the special reserve, but will not join the line. I do not think this reluctance is altogether due to their love of home ties, but from an objection to binding themselves to go anywhere they may be sent for a certain number of years, and a doubt as to their future.

Possibly, if the number of men allowed to extend their service and thus enabled to qualify for a pension is increased, their views on this subject may change, and they will come to look upon a definite career in the Army as being as good as, if not better than, emigration, which takes so many eligible recruits from Scotland. Apart from this feeling the environment of the inhabitants of many remote places in Scotland—especially in the Islands—leads them to acquire a very unambitious and sluggish temperament. In these places they can earn enough money to keep them for a time, and loaf about doing nothing until it is finished; even the shops in these neighbourhoods do not open till late in the mornings, no one being out of bed and about until well on in the day. To arouse this class of individual to any sense of his duty as a citizen of the Empire is indeed a labour, and requires recruiting sergeants and others to be imbued with the zeal and perseverance of Salvation Army officials. I feel convinced that nothing but continuous and energetic
Clinical and other Notes

methods will ever lead to an improvement in recruiting in these localities. During my visits to the Islands of Lewis, Harris, North and South Uist, and Stornaway, I had the opportunity of hearing the views of many people who spend their lives in and about these places, such as Roman Catholic priests, officials on the boats which ply between the Islands; policemen, hotel-keepers, etc., and they all agreed that there was plenty of material for the Army, but that to get recruits required energetic measures taken locally. If marches could take place through the larger villages, military training be carried out in some of these districts, lectures given, illustrated where possible by kinema films, it would get the people to understand, take an interest in, and learn something of a life in the Army. I also think that more army posters should be displayed than are seen at present, printed in both English and Gaelic. It is astonishing in what out-of-the-way places picture houses are now found, and as there is so very little to relieve the monotony of life in the Islands, I think any good lecturer would be assured of an audience and the pictures would prove of great interest.

These Islands and their inhabitants are both undoubtedly fertile, and the majority of the people are of good physique, healthy, and long-lived. The old men retain their vitality, and can work well until an advanced age; the women also, long after the time Nature permits of their resting from their labours in a physiological sense, continue working at various employments. It therefore seems a pity that from such a hardy stock one cannot obtain more recruits for the Army, especially as I was told many fine specimens of the London police come from these parts.

Recruiting in the larger cities such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dundee, is moderate, the class of recruit on the whole not being as good as one could wish from a physical point of view. Many who enlist from these towns do so for the sole reason that they can get no work, and are often in poor condition. The men, however, improve wonderfully after a short time at the depots, the training and good food acting most beneficially, a fact very patent to recruiting staff officers, though at times they seem to hold a somewhat exaggerated opinion of such benefits —judging by occasional efforts on their part to get some very indifferent specimens passed by medical examiners of recruits if found amenable enough.

A few months ago the "Army Film" arrived in Scotland, and when shown at one of the picture houses in Princes Street, Edinburgh, drew large crowds during the week it was on view. During this period recruiting in Edinburgh fell off considerably; whether this was due to prospective recruits first visiting the show before making up their minds to enlist or not, or whether it was merely a coincidence, is difficult to say. There was, however, no doubt about the interest the public took in the exhibition, but it is to be regretted that the film was not also on view at a lower admission fee at picture houses in the Leith, Dalry, and
Clinical and other Notes

Fountainbridge districts, as these are thickly populated neighbourhoods where the artisan and labouring classes live—people from whom one would more naturally expect to obtain recruits than from the audiences found attending the house in Princes Street. With the exception of officers and soldiers at one or two special performances, the audiences were chiefly ladies and spectators to whom the recruiting question does not appeal in a personal way. Though they certainly appeared deeply interested in what they saw, their interest in the proceedings was more in the nature of a criticism of the film from a spectacular point of view; one of the ladies present commenting on the physique of the centre figure in one scene, whose legs certainly appeared more naturally adapted for closely encircling the body of a horse than showing to advantage as an infantry soldier wearing a kilt. Another remark I also heard a lady make was when she was watching a scene depicting infantry advancing under artillery fire in extended order. "Of course," she said, "the men would not expose themselves like that if there were real bullets about"—failing apparently to see the object of the picture and taking a decidedly pessimistic view of the bravery of our soldiers under fire. The films depicting the work of officers and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps, which alternated with those recording the treatment of a sick or injured horse, were well shown and should tend to inspire confidence in the relatives of men on active service, for no one could help but admire the neatness and dispatch with which the injured were being dealt with.

AN UNUSUAL FRACTURE.

By Captain A. G. Wells.
Royal Army Medical Corps.

The following case, being one of a rare kind of injury, seems worth recording. The patient, Private B., was sent to me for operation for "internal derangement of the knee-joint." He gave the history of an accident in 1905 while playing football. He was charged and fell, doubling his leg under him. On getting up he was unable to straighten his knee-joint, and there was a great deal of pain on the outer side. He was admitted to hospital, where he remained for some three weeks. The knee-joint swelled up and remained in the semi-flexed position. With rest and lotions the swelling subsided and he was able to straighten the limb. He had no more trouble until early in July, 1913, when he had a similar accident at football. Since this accident he had been unable to walk, and on bending his knee he felt and heard a "click."

On examination of the knee there was an indefinite body to be felt at the outer side of the joint. This was not movable. On flexing and extending the joint a distinct "click" was felt and heard, and gave one