A VISIT TO No. 1 MILITARY HOSPITAL, TOKYO, JAPAN.

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While on a visit to Japan last summer I was granted permission by the military authorities, thanks to the kindness of Lieutenant-Colonel Somerville, Military Attaché at Tokyo, to inspect the largest military hospital in Japan’s capital.

As the opportunity of visiting such an institution does not come the way of many officers of the Corps a short description of this visit might be interesting.

The hospital is splendidly situated on a height overlooking the Imperial Palace and is very substantially built. It is surrounded by a high wall and entrance to the building by the main gate is carefully guarded, no admission being given without the necessary authority.

On my arrival I was received with great courtesy by Dr. Kawashima, the Principal Medical Officer, and with the aid of Mr. C. S. Hernena, an interpreter whose services were kindly lent me by Captain A. Irvine Fortescue, R.A.M.C., I was enabled to ascertain the general working and administration of this important institution.

Unlike our military hospitals at home the hospital buildings are arranged in separate and distinct blocks connected by raised wooden footways; the scheme is comparable, in fact, to the present separate villa system in vogue in modern asylums in Great Britain.

There is accommodation for 500 patients, and around the main administrative block are arranged separate blocks for medical and surgical cases, venereal, eye and infectious cases. In addition to these there are separate blocks for laboratories, mental cases, nursing orderlies, main kitchen, and an electric power station. The wards are well lighted and scrupulously clean. Each ward has at one end a recreation room for the use of patients allowed up, and there are also separate wards for the reception of serious cases requiring special nursing. The bathrooms and latrines are also excellent.

A Japanese never sleeps on a bedstead, but in this hospital “Tommy” is supplied with the latest pattern wire hospital beds. In place of a bedside table the beds are drawn well away from the
wall and attached to the head of the bed each patient has a neat box in which he places his necessaries. At the top of each bedstead is a wooden ball, which is placed in a conspicuous position. The balls painted half red indicate patients unable to walk, the idea being that in the case of an outbreak of fire the nursing orderlies can see at a glance which patients require assistance.

The officers' wards are a model of neatness and cleanliness, and in the event of an officer being admitted he is nursed by specially trained Army Nursing Sisters, who undergo a course of training comparable to our Army Nursing Sisters'.

In this hospital there is a large and up-to-date operating theatre with every modern appliance. Unfortunately, I had not the opportunity of watching an operation, but the surgeon in charge informed me he had performed this year thirty-six appendicectomies alone. In this theatre were performed hundreds of operations during the Russo-Japanese War, and the records they obtained would be hard to beat. The surgical qualities of the Japanese may be guessed from their skill in artistic technique, but the key to the Japanese records is their belief in what they have learned from Western science. The Japanese are very thorough, as a single instance will illustrate. A few years prior to the late war their soldiers and sailors had fought in the quaintest mediaeval or barbaric armour possible, but then before a naval engagement the sailors were compelled to take carbolic baths and to don sterilized underclothing, so that they stood up to the Russian guns in the full modern panoply of a boiled vest and a carbolized skin, so that the injuries inflicted by the Russian projectiles were aseptic. Never before in the history of war did such a large proportion of the wounded return to the fighting line.

To return to the operating theatre, leading out from it is an anaesthetic room. The principal anaesthetic used here is chloroform given in the open method by means of a Schimmelbusch's mask. In serious cases, or cases taking the anaesthetic badly, they employ a König's apparatus for the combined administration of oxygen, chloroform and ether.

The sterilizing-room used in conjunction with the operating theatre and the dressing-room is a model of efficiency, and before entering the theatre everything is sterilized with that same thoroughness which characterizes all their methods. All the surgical instruments used are of the very latest pattern and are practically all manufactured in Japan.

The laboratory in this hospital is very up to date and all the
The latest tests in bacteriological diagnosis are carried out here. They employ the finest Leitz microscope. There is practically no typhoid in the Japanese Army and consequently inoculation is not practised. A very few cases of paratyphoid A occur, but many cases of paratyphoid B. The scarcity of cases of paratyphoid A appears extraordinary considering the system of sanitation throughout the country, which is most primitive. Attached to the laboratory is a separate building for the housing of monkeys, rabbits, etc., for use in experimental inoculation.

The X-ray rooms are very up to date, and the high standard of excellence shown by an examination of the plates and prints points to that same thoroughness of technique which characterizes all their work.

Besides X-ray equipment they also employ the electric current in the most modern electric bath treatment of rheumatic and allied diseases.

They also have a dental room, with a qualified dentist, and their venereal wards are the model of perfection. As venereal disease is fairly prevalent in the army the administration of neo-salvarsan is their routine method of treatment. In the administrative block I was shown a well-stocked and up-to-date library containing medical works all of which were printed in German. Practically all the military medical officers can speak German more or less fluently, as after their medical training in Japan they complete their education by studying for a period of two years in the German universities.

OUTFIT FOR SIERRA LEONE.

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Officers ordered to this station are frequently at a loss to know what outfit should be taken. It is hoped that the following notes, based on the at present prevailing fashions, may be of some assistance to those about to make their first trip to the Coast.

General Notes.

In general the climate is hot, damp, and depressing, life is somewhat monotonous, and the station should, therefore, be avoided by the neurotic or weakly individual who is not prepared to make