A CORRESPONDENCE CIRCLE.

XIII.

NOTES ON A FEW CORPS TOPICS.

By BREVET COLONEL W. R. P. GOODWIN, D.S.O.

(1) Out-patient Record Cards—vide Ritchie in Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps for November, 1925.

I entirely agree as to the utility of these records. Cards, very much as described, for soldiers treated in barracks have been in use at the Military Hospital, Gibraltar, since the beginning of the present year, and have proved invaluable. They are particularly useful in the case of proposed invalids, men coming up for extension of service, etc. It is important that the cards be sent to the new station when soldiers are transferred.

(2) Liaison between Stations regarding Soldiers transferred as Sick or Invalids.

It is suggested that there is need for closer liaison between Military Hospitals regarding the progress of sick or invalids transferred from one station to another, especially in the case of men invalided from abroad. It happens not infrequently that men are invalided from stations abroad, for disabilities of outstanding interest, and the medical authorities at the foreign station hear nothing more of the later progress of the case unless they write and ask, and as it is not always known to what hospital the patient has gone, this is not always easy. It is suggested that the home hospital should send the foreign station hospital fortnightly or monthly reports (according to the interest of the case), until such time as the case passes out of the interesting stage.

(3) Corps Colours for Games.

So far as I know there is no definite rule laid down as to what colours officers and men representing the Corps in football and other matches should wear. The different companies appear to vary considerably. It is suggested that definite colours be laid down for football shirts, etc., and that all companies adopt them.

Again, there is the question of blazers—there appears to be no universal pattern of blazers for officers of the Corps to wear at cricket, etc. One sees plain blue blazers, with or without the Corps badge on the pocket, blazers with Corps buttons, and so on. Might we not have one standard pattern blazer?
(4) Distinguishing mark to be worn by all ranks of the Corps on Service Dress Helmets.

It is suggested that the Corps serving abroad wear a distinguishing mark on the helmet at all foreign stations. I believe nothing is laid down. At Gibraltar we are the only unit which wears no distinguishing mark; I believe officers and men serving in Egypt wear something of the kind.

Note.—Colonel Goodwin’s suggestions will be welcomed by officers of the Corps, as they deal with matters that concern us. As regards the Out-patient Record Cards, this was the suggestion of a correspondent, and I regret that it should have been incorrectly attributed to me. Blazers are now worn so universally that a standard pattern for the Corps would be appreciated. One might suggest something quiet, yet distinctive—not necessarily a laurel wreath on the pocket, but perhaps a crown, or our alternative device of the lion and crown, as on the full-dress waist-belt. Fashions in semi-regimental garments and haberdashery change frequently, and it is suggested that there might be some standing committee of one of the Corps institutions to decree changes. All these matters, apparently trivial, have an accumulative effect on Corps moral, and anyone interested in the art, or gift, of leadership will not fail to discern their value. Another matter that might receive consideration is the institution of a Corps “Day.” We want one day in the year that we can look on as our own, when we can celebrate our festivities, have sports or play matches, send greetings to our distant comrades, and hold our gatherings. The R.A.M.C. Association could help here, as it concerns our former comrades as much as those now serving.

M. B. H. Ritchie.

Note.—Corps colours have been authorized, and blazer, cap, scarf and tie can be obtained from Messrs. Drew & Co., 27, St. James’ Street, S.W.1.

The day of the Corps Dinner is a Corps Day, and it is hoped that officers will display their appreciation of it by giving increased support to the meetings held on that day.

The Corps Golf Meeting follows the Corps Day, and with a little enthusiasm it should be possible to arrange for a Corps Cricket Match at the same time. [EDITOR.]