were especially good when eaten cold, as this seemed to increase their flavour. It can be seen that these rations fulfilled the main requirements for such an expedition, which are that the food must be light of weight and small in bulk, of reasonable variety and as far as possible immune to the effects of water.

The rations were kept in a store tent and issued as required to the marchers leaving base camp, to the survey party and to those remaining in camp. The proper storage and issuing of rations was organized by a leader and two or three storemen. The whole system worked perfectly and at the end of the expedition only enough food remained for a final issue of base camp rations.

It was then as we partook of our final Base Camp rations, while discussing the past few weeks that we realized how much planning such an expedition necessitates. Already one or two leaders were turning their minds to the 1952 expedition, for by careful planning and anticipation the hazards of such an undertaking can be reduced. The necessity to think ahead was one of the lessons of the expedition, for if the old adage “look before you leap” is true of life it is doubly so of expeditions.

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THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL, NETLEY

BY

Colonel J. W. HYATT

The Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley will soon be one hundred years old. The inscription on a brass plate surmounted by the Royal Arms is:

This Stone was laid on the 19th day of May in the year of our Lord 1856 by Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria I Queen of Great Britain and Ireland as the foundation stone of the Victoria Military Hospital, intended for the reception of the Sick and invalided Soldiers of Her Army.

For the ceremony, the first public act of Her Majesty after the conclusion of peace the Queen arrived in the Royal Yacht, the route from the foreshore was lined by troops, and the Mayor of Southampton with all the local dignitaries attended.

The original water colour plan for this ceremony from the papers of General Sir A. Nelson was presented to the hospital by his grand-daughter Lady Burnett-Stuart in 1928. A drawing of the ceremony from the Illustrated London News has recently been presented by J. C. Crisp, Esq., of Bournemouth.

The hospital was expected to be the first of its class in Europe and to be completed in three years and accommodate 1,000 patients.

It was designed by Mr. Mennie, architect to the War Department, the cost was to be about £200,000. The site of originally 109 acres was purchased in August 1855 for £15,000.

The main hospital building presents a fine façade towards Southampton Water of red brick faced with Portland Stone and a granite base. The three blocks connected by corridors have a frontage of 468 yards with very extensive...
glass windows. The Prime Minister of the time wrote: “It seems that at Netley all consideration of what would best tend to the comfort and recovery of the patient has been sacrificed to the vanity of the architect whose sole object has been to cut a dash when looked at from Southampton Water.”

The proposal to build a military hospital originated in 1855 in order to remove the great inconvenience to the Service arising from the defects of the General Hospital at Fort Pitt as well as from the total inadequacy of the accommodation provided in the casemates at St. Mary’s Chatham, for the reception of the invalids of the Army.

The Secretary of State for War Lord Panmure considered that it would be advantageous to the Service if a great military hospital were situated near either of the great ports of Plymouth or Portsmouth.

The Director-General of the Army Medical Department desired “that the hospital should be on the coast or on some large inlet of the sea so that invalids from abroad could be landed immediately and marched into their barracks and the sick without injury be placed in Hospital.”

The members of the committee concerned in the plans of the hospital were Colonel O’Brien, A.Q.M.G., Horse Guards, Dr. Mapleton, M.D., and Captain R. M. Laffan, Deputy Inspector-General of Fortifications and a Medical Department committee of Dr. Andrew Smith, D.G., A.M.D., Dr. Cummings, Inspector-General of Hospitals, Dr. Dumbrick and Dr. Forrest, Deputy I.G. of Hospitals. Captain H. Elphinstone, R.E., was sent at the suggestion of Dr. Andrew Smith to inspect the hospital at Rotterdam recently built there and the Royal Victoria Hospital was modelled on the plan of that hospital.

Building proceeded but soon the physicians and surgeons of the Middlesex Hospital addressed a memorandum to Lord Panmure stating that “hospitals which have been recently constructed in this country on somewhat similar principles to the Royal Victoria Hospital have proved failures, and are continually subjected to visitations of erysipelas and hospital gangrene.”

A committee called the Barrack and Hospital Improvement Committee raised further objections in the famous “Confidential Report.” The chairman was Mr. Sidney Herbert and the members Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Burrell and Captain Galton, R.E. Evidence given by Miss Florence Nightingale to the commission on the sanitary condition of the Army is quoted in this report.

In April 1858 the original committee was ordered by Lord Peel to reassemble and report on these objections. After collecting further expert opinions they concluded that:

1. The site is unobjectionable.
2. The building well adapted to its purpose.
3. That it is not the sort of building for a medical school.
4. That considering the expenditure incurred we do not recommend that an otherwise good hospital be converted into a barrack.
5. That if a medical school is established it appears the best place would be at some large military station.
Dr. Sutherland presented a minority report.

These reports are very interesting reading and apparently the Army Medical Department in the original plans had some very ingenious ideas on ventilation, also the original purpose of the building was to have been an Invalid Depot and General Hospital combined.

A copy of these reports presented to the House of Commons by Command of Her Majesty in 1858 from the Officers' Library, Netley, is now in the Library of the R.A.M. College, Millbank.

According to the Medical News and the Times in the first week of March 1863, the staff of Fort Pitt Hospital, Chatham, moved to Netley with the professors of the Army Medical School. The invalid depot moved immediately afterwards from St. Mary's Barracks, Chatham.

Under the new system the troopships will lie in Southampton Water and all time-expired men will be landed immediately, only the sick and wounded will be detained in hospital.

The Governor of the hospital was Colonel R. Wilbraham, C.B., Major J. M. Kennedy, Paymaster, and Captain W. Hawtree, Captain of orderlies.

The sixth session of the Army medical school opened at Netley on April 15, 1863.

Professor Longmore, Deputy Inspector-General, addressed the Students on the objects of the school, which were to diminish mortality in the Army and to show to the Surgeons entering the Army the effects of Service on the soldiers, to which end the school was attached to the invaliding establishment. He mentioned that since the foundation of the school in 1860, 3 surgeons and 44 assistant surgeons and 89 candidates for commissions had passed through the courses, which equalled one-eighth of the total number of Army Medical Officers. Two young medical officers had recently died of cholera on service.

The Commandant, Dr. Anderson the P.M.O., Major Ravenhill, Commanding engineer, and Major Rawlings attended the lecture. Colonel Wilbraham hoped that the opening of the great establishment at Netley would be productive of two-fold benefits, that it would give the old soldiers a comfortable home until discharged, while for the medical staff he hoped that Netley would be what Woolwich was to the Artillery. He complimented the P.M.O. and the medical officers for their co-operation and accommodating spirit in which they had overcome all the difficulties of the first organization of so large an establishment.

The first visit of Her Majesty Queen Victoria was paid on May 8, 1863. The Queen landed about 3.30 p.m. with her staff and Sir James Clark, physician, and spent two hours in visiting almost every part of the hospital. Her Majesty must have been a frequent visitor afterwards but the records have vanished.

The first professor of Medicine at the Army Medical School was Surgeon-General W. M. Maclean, C.B., LL.D., Q.H.S., M.D. He was appointed from the Indian Service.

The first professor of Military Surgery was Sir Thomas Longmore, C.B., Dr. Aitken the first professor of Pathology had been sent out in 1855 to investi-
gate the diseases from which the troops suffered in the Crimea, and Dr. Edward Parkes was the first to fill the Chair of Hygiene.

The assistant professors also performed the executive duties as chiefs of the Divisions of the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Anyone who has read any of the books dealing with the life of Florence Nightingale will know how much the medical Department of the Army is indebted to Mr. Stanley Herbert. The warrant which goes by his name was known as its Magna Charta and the formation of the Medical School was largely due to his efforts.

The warrant conferred on medical officers the right to advise Officers in command on health questions and obliged them either to follow the advice or to submit their reasons for not doing so to their superiors in writing. From now onwards men of high professional ability and qualifications were attracted to the Service.

Surgeon-General Maclean, addressing the young medical officers on his retirement, mentioned that his publication of an account of an epidemic which he showed to have been preventable had incurred the displeasure of the then Secretary for War, since which none of the lectures of the professors had been published. He published “Memories of a Long Life” at the age of 84 in 1895.

Sir Thomas Longmore, C.B., Q.H.S., was professor of military surgery for nearly thirty-one years. As surgeon of the 19th Regiment he served throughout the Crimean Campaign. He wrote a Treatise on the Transport of Sick and wounded troops published as the official red book in 1869 and 1893. He was also responsible for the official manuals of sight testing and the distinguishing of visual defects in the Army. These were no doubt responsible for the foundation of the marksmanship attained in the Army in later years. His book “Gunshot Injuries” published in 1877, besides giving a description of all the missiles in use at that time, contains a full account of the Administrative arrangements for care and treatment of wounded soldiers in time of war.

In this book the only reference to Netley is the mention of the use of sawdust in gauze bags by Surgeon-Major Porter for the treatment of suppurating wounds. The sawdust used was obtained from steam saw-mills and is selected from the Menmel pine and appears to act as an antiseptic. No mention of sterilization is made. One wonders if the same timber merchant is now cutting the timber on the estate which must have just been planted at this time.

The professors’ rooms and the library were on the second floor of the Centre Block, the lecture theatre was opposite the operating theatre on the same floor of A-Block. The laboratories were in B Square now occupied by the Barrack Stores. Two well-known names in Pathology are associated with Netley.

Sir Almroth Wright returned to England in 1891 from Sydney where he had been demonstrator of physiology. He became Professor of Pathology at Netley and held the post for ten years. In 1895 he began his researches
in the prevention of disease by inoculation. He went from Netley in 1898 to serve with the Plague Commission in India. His struggle with the authorities in order to introduce inoculation against typhoid fever in the army caused him to resign and go to St. Mary's Hospital, London.

Sir William Leishman passed fifth into the Army Medical Service in 1887. Ten years later he was posted to Netley to take over charge of the Medical Ward. While working in the Pathological Laboratory he evolved the stain that bears his name which enabled the causative parasite of kala-azar to be demonstrated.

He became Professor of Pathology on transfer of the school to Millbank in 1903 and Director-General of the Army Medical Services in 1923.

During the recent painting of the hospital the names of the medical officers who obtained first place in the competitive examination for commissions from the seventeenth to the thirtieth session 1868 to 1875 were revealed painted on the present wall of the lift shaft outside the former college lecture theatre.

A description of Netley in 1887 is given in the R.A.M.C. Journal by Colonel E. C. Fremantle, C.M.G. The hospital then took all invalids except Gunners and Royal Engineers. The Officers' Mess was very lively, the Medical Service had the prettiest patrol jacket of the Army, greatcoats had velvet collars and the Mess kit was blue and black velvet with red waistcoat buttoning up to the neck. There was then plenty of social life, the annual cricket match against Haslar was a great event. The principal object in the museum was the skeleton of the Duke of Wellington's charger "Copenhagen" which performed many nocturnal journeys with the surgeons on probation.

Originally all Army nurses served a probationary period at Netley until 1884 when previous civilian training was required. The first detachment of other ranks of the Queen Alexandra's Army Nursing Corps joined the hospital on January 12, 1951.

In the report of the hospital for 1863, Inspector-General Anderson reports that the invalids have been comfortably landed from the steamers in which they were brought round from Spithead in the large boats of H.M.S. "Dauntless" and disembarked at the Queen's stairs. The pier was constructed in 1865 and later a railway line to the hospital enabled ambulance coaches to be used.

The mental hospital "D" Block was built in 1870, a large ward was added to the front of the building in 1907.

During the 1914-1918 war the hospital was expanded to 2,500 beds with the addition of sections maintained by the British Red Cross and by voluntary subscriptions in Wales. These hospitals were in huts and tents behind the main building.

In the 1939-1945 war the accommodation at Netley was handed over to the American Forces on January 15, 1944, and reoccupied on July 19, 1945. Netley Hospital during this period moved to Leighton House, Victoria College, Westbury, Wiltshire.
In September 1940 a hall constructed entirely of timber was presented by the Timber Trades Federation of the U.K. to replace the Y.M.C.A. hut erected in 1915.

"E" Block built in 1941 now accommodates all the hospital beds, and in 1949 a gymnasium was added for the convalescent wing.

In 1889 the Families Hospital consisted of two wards 24 feet by 18 feet on elevated ground. In recent times it was situated at the east end of the main building opening on a garden. Closed in 1944 it reopened in 1947 and was closed again eighteen months later owing to the difficulty of providing nursing staff.

The great interest that Her Majesty Queen Victoria took in her troops is indicated by the following letter to the P.M.O.

Dear Surgeon General Nash,

Osborne, February 11, 1898.

The Queen commands me to say that she wishes to present to all the patients at Netley today who have had the misfortune to lose their legs and arms an artificial limb with all the latest improvements. Perhaps you would kindly arrange accordingly and in due course send the account to me. I am only writing privately but you may be glad to hear that the Queen was much pleased with her visit today and with all the excellent arrangements. Believe me, Yours very truly,

Fleetwood J. Edwards.

The shawl crocheted by the Queen and presented to the hospital in 1882 for the use of her most deserving soldier is the most treasured relic existing at Netley.

There are many memorials at Netley, the earliest being that of the Crimean War. It is in the form of a thirteenth century cross of Portland Stone 56 feet high, situated at the centre of the water front and next to the cricket pavilion. The foundation was laid by the Prince of Wales in 1864.

In the main entrance hall is a marble bas relief in memory of the officers, N.C.O.s and men of the Army Medical Department who fell in the discharge of duty during the Campaigns of 1878 to 1880 in Afghanistan and of 1879 in South Africa.

In the Royal Chapel situated behind the centre block and clock tower, which with the galleries can seat 900, there is a stained glass window dedicated to Surgeon General C. Stewart Beatson, C.B., M.D., P.M.O., in 1890. The altar is in memory of Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Burchael, D.M.S., in France and Director of Medical Services in India 1919–1923 and the altar rails commemorate Major W. Mc. E. Snodgrass, M.C., who died from infection contracted while operating at Netley 1934. There are numerous mural tablets. The chapel is well described in the pamphlet, Netley 1856 to 1935, by the Revd. E. H. Pillifant.

Between the two wars the patients’ library at the west end of the main building was taken over as the Roman Catholic Church.

Since 1948 part of the ground floor of the main building has been appropriated as the Serjeants’ Mess, an improvement on the dingy quarters in "B" Square.
Clinical and Other Notes

At the present time the hospital consists of Medical and Surgical Divisions and Psychiatric Division with Psychotic and Psychoneurotic wings. A Convalescent Wing of 500 beds in the main building brings the total number of equipped beds to 932.

In addition the Army School of Physiotherapy and the Embarkation Medical Equipment Depot are located here.

It is regretted that there are many gaps in the history of the hospital as few records exist.

However, Netley has I trust lived down the remarks quoted in the beginning.

I am indebted to Major General T. Menzies, D.D.M.S. Southern Command, for permission to publish this article and to the Librarian of the R.A.M. College, Millbank, for help in the search for references.

Clinical and Other Notes

OBSERVATIONS MADE DURING THE DENTAL TREATMENT OF PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

BY

Lieutenant E. K. JOSEPH, L.D.S.

Royal Army Medical Corps

The following observations were made over a period of five months at the Connaught Military Hospital, Hindhead. The recent methods of treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis by Streptomycin and para-Aminosalicylic Acid (PAS) over long periods offered the possibility of observing the effects of these drugs, if any, on common dental conditions. The number of patients suffering from this disease and under this new treatment who were examined exceeded 100.

Observations

Acute Alveolar Abscess

As it is undesirable to subject patients with pulmonary tuberculosis to general anaesthesia, it was possible to observe the course of acute abscesses unsuitable for treatment by immediate extraction of the offending tooth under local anaesthetic, until the acute signs and symptoms had subsided.

Several patients, who were being treated with streptomycin, developed