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THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE IMPERIAL YEOMANRY FIELD HOSPITAL.

We have received the following further letter from Mr. C. Stonham, Chief Surgeon and Officer Commanding Imperial Yeomanry Field Hospital; Senior Surgeon, Westminster Hospital, etc.:

II.

AT PRETORIA.

The Devil's Kantoor, October 6th.

In my letter from Barberton I gave a short outline of our marches and work up to our return to Pretoria from Springs on July 17th.

We entered Pretoria early in the morning, and sending our convoy to our old camping ground at Arcadia, Major Hill and I went to report to the Principal Medical Officer, and obtain further orders.

It was decided that we should have a detachment of the Field Hospital and Bearer Company with some of our transport animals and waggons at Pretoria, while the main body marched to rejoin General Mahon's brigade. We accordingly left Mr. Openshaw and Dr. Purves Stewart with 50 men, 5 waggons, and the necessary equipment and stores for the formation of a rest camp hospital. Next morning we marched with the remainder, and came up with General Mahon in the afternoon at Kameel's Drift. There had been two days' fighting here, and we did not leave the ridge until July 20th, on which day we passed Pretorius's farm, and spent nearly all day in crossing the Pienaar's River; the drift was very steep, and hence the waggons, and especially the heavy guns, required many teams to drag them over.

SOUTH AFRICAN "DRIFTS."

These drifts are passages of the usually rocky beds of rivers, with at this season of the year comparatively little water. During the rains there may be as much as 40 feet to 50 feet of water at the drifts, which are consequently rendered impassable. Many drifts have very steep banks and abominable approaches, which when a few waggons have passed are often a foot deep in mud and slush. In this carts sometimes stick and it becomes necessary to employ double or even treble spans of mules or oxen to pull them out. I need hardly say that the passage of such drifts by ambulance waggons causes very considerable suffering to sick and wounded men and delay to the whole convoy, which may extend for many miles. On some days we have had to pass as many as half-a-dozen drifts, our march being consequently slow and most arduous, not to mention the wear and tear to transport animals.

AMBULANCE WAGGONS.

Drifts are a very severe test of the strength and durability of a wagon. In this respect we certainly have much reason to thank the builder of ours; they are most excellent, have stood wear and tear admirably, and I think I may say are the best in the country. Our ambulance waggons are built differently to those in use in the army, which only carry two patients lying down, whereas ours will take four and are much lighter.

THE MARCH TO BALMORAL.

On July 21st at 8.30 there was heavy firing about 10 miles ahead of us, and it continued at intervals all day until we reached our camp, where we found that the Boers had been shelling Colonel Hickman's force near a spruit. Colonel Hickman with 800 men were camped here, and the next day he transferred our sick to his field hospital, which was going back to Pretoria.

On July 22nd Mahon's brigade joined Ian Hamilton's division at Rustfontein, where we remained the next day to give Pole-Carew and Clery time to march up on our right flank. Just before reaching camp at dusk, one of our waggons, I regret to say, came to grief in a hole, the native driver being killed and the wagon orderly receiving two very severe scalp wounds.

On July 24th we camped at Bronkhorst Spruit, the enemy sniping our rear during the march here. We found a large force—about 20,000—Lords Robert and Kitchener having come up in the morning. The next day Hamilton's division, of

which our brigade was now a part, marched from Balmoral, 17 miles distant, but we were not destined to reach there without mishap. The weather had been very threatening all day, and rain began about 2 P.M.; about 3 miles on the wrong side of Balmoral our own convoy was brought to the halt at a drift in which a Cape cart and a 4.7 gun had stuck; the former was, however, the offender so far as our further progress was concerned. By this time it was pitch dark, the rain was coming down in a pitiless torrent, and the wind was icy cold. To proceed was impossible, and we had to stay here the night, three miles of convoy in our rear being in the same plight—no food, no shelter. Major Hale with characteristic energy walked on to Balmoral to report, and on coming back wet through he and I made the best of it in a Cape cart which I had fortunately commandeered at Rustfontein.

To describe this night is beyond my powers, but when I say that we alone lost 12 mules, and that I counted 195 dead animals within quite a short distance, some idea may be formed of its severity. Early in the morning we made ready to proceed, when we heard that an officer of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders had died in the night from exposure, we sent back a stretcher party, and carried the body in with us to be buried by the regiment.

We reached Balmoral at 10.30 and looked forward to a day's rest, but were doomed to disappointment, as orders came at 11 P.M. for us to march at 12.30 back to Pretoria.

RETURN TO PRETORIA.

Many guesses were made as to the reason for the return of the division, and we thought we were being done out of the final advance to Komati Poort and neighbouring district; but events proved that this was yet far distant, important work having to be done in the Rustenburg district before the final advance could be undertaken. Our return march was uneventful. We reached Pretoria on July 30th, and the division marched past Lord Roberts and a large crowd of people at 12 o'clock on its way to camp at Daaspoort, two miles to the west of the town. We sent all our sick, chiefly cases of fever and intestinal trouble, to the detachment that I found had been installed by the principal medical officer in a house which they were energetically preparing as a military hospital and was taken over by the R.A.M.C., our officers and men being lent for use until we should require their services in the field. Unfortunately our mules had been handed back to the transport, and hence we could not obtain fresh animals. This day in Pretoria was a very busy one, as we were under orders to march the next morning.

THE MARCH TO RUSTENBURG.

On August 1st Mahon's brigade marched through Vanderboom Pass, and then westwards on the Rustenburg road. Pilcher was on our right and the rest of Hamilton's division on the left, separated from us by the range of hills. At 8 A.M. fighting began and continued all day, our guns dislodging the Boers from a kopje at Middlewater, where we camped for the night. Two of our ambulances went out after the fighting and brought back five wounded, all flesh wounds of the thighs or buttocks, made as the men were lying down. We finished dressing these cases by 10 P.M., and sent one of our ambulance waggons with the wounded back to Pretoria the next morning. The next day we marched forwards, heavy firing proceeding all day from Hamilton's direction, but Mahon's brigade did not come into action. In the evening we camped at Zilikatz Nek, where the Lincolns had been attacked some time before. The fighting on this day had been with a commando holding this pass, and Hamilton had about forty casualties, which were dealt with by his own field hospitals.

The country we were now in is very pretty, certainly the garden of the Transvaal; the valley, bounded by considerable hills on either side, is very fertile and studded by prosperous farms in many cases well stocked. Oranges, lemons, and similar fruits grow in abundance, and proved most acceptable. The want of fresh vegetables and fruit is very severely felt after a time, and these are eagerly taken when a chance offers. On August 3rd our march was very short, as we had to cross the Crocodile River by a bad drift. We camped just the other side of it, opposite Commando Pass, but saw nothing of the enemy, although about twenty prisoners were brought in from neighbouring farms. The next day we marched to Sterk-

stroom, and a runner came in from Baden Powell, who was hemmed in at Rustenburg, bringing a map made by him, and indicating the various positions occupied by the Boers and their numbers. When we advanced on August 5th, however, they were not to be found, and we reached Rustenburg unopposed.

THE ACTIONS ABOUT RUSTENBURG.

The country is naturally fortified on this side of Pretoria, and if the Boers do not defend it it argues most strongly that they will not again stand. On August 6th Major Hale and I marched out with part of our ambulances towards Majata Pass, where the enemy was said to be in force, but we returned at night without having seen anything of them, although heavy gun fire was heard all day some miles distant, and it was feared the Boers had captured one of our convoys coming up from Mafeking. The next day we marched back, as we thought for Pretoria, having relieved Rustenburg, and Baden Powell marching with us. We carried in our waggons all the sick and wounded who were fit to leave the Rustenburg Hospital, and supplied the doctor in charge of those who could not be moved with medical comforts from our own stores. On August 9th we passed over Commando Pass, and camped at Grootplatz, from which place we sent a sick-convoy to Pretoria.

On the 11th we again proceeded westwards, passing through Hekpoort the next day and camping at Thorndale. On August 13th Major Hale and Dr. Green with two ambulance waggons went on with a flying column under General Watson, the rest of us following with the remainder of the division. We came in touch with Kitchener and Methuen on August 15th, who were pursuing a commando under C. de Wet, who was making for Rustenburg to join Delarey. Mahon's column came back to our camp on this day.

On August 17th, having camped the night before 5 miles to the westward, we moved on to Olifant's Nek, half a battery and some infantry going on ahead with four of our ambulances under Major Hale. After some shelling the Boers were driven from the Nek and we proceeded to Rustenburg. From this action we had only two wounded. The next morning we again left Rustenburg and marched towards the Crocodile River, near which at Zwartkops Mahon's brigade had a two days' action (August 19th and 20th) with De Wet's commando. On the first day one of our waggons was taken, together with an Australian ambulance, by the Boers, but Major Hale rode back and represented the facts to the General, who at once sent a doctor from one of the Boer ambulances which was in our lines and which we had helped with drugs and medical comforts, to interview the Boer commandant, with the result that the ambulance came in later in the afternoon and brought in some wounded.

On the night of August 20th the Boers vacated their position, and we went in pursuit as far as Warm Baths, but we failed to come up with them (August 24th).

On August 26th we left for Pretoria where we arrived on August 28th to leave again, however, after one day's rest for our march to Barberton.

THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCILS.

THE following is, we believe, a complete list of the medical men who have been elected members of the first Metropolitan Borough Councils:

Battersea.—Councillor: Dr. L. S. McManus.
Bermondsey (including the Parishes of Rotherhithe, Bermondsey, Horselydown, and St. Olave and St. Thomas, Southwark).—Councillors: F. Ougon, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., and J. Mulqueen, L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I.
Bethnal Green.—Councillors: W. A. Farebrother, L.S.A., and F. E. Rogers, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Camberwell.—Councillor: A. Smith, L.R.C.P.I.
Chelsea.—Councillor: J. W. Erskine, M.B.
Deptford.—Councillor: F. T. Tayler, M.B.
Finsbury.—Councillor: E. Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Fulham.—Councillor: H. J. Jones, M.R.C.S.
Greenwich.—Mayor: Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Gooding, J.P., V.D.
Hackney.—Aldermen: Dr. J. O. Adams, Dr. F. H. Daly, T. Hoskin, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Councillors: F. M. Miller, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F. Wallace, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., M. E. A. Wallis, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.
Hammersmith.—Councillors: O. C. Coker, L.R.C.P., L.S.A., W. A. Davidson, L.S.A.
Hampstead.—Councillors: Dr. E. C. Andrews, C. W. Cunningham, M.R.C.S., Dr. A. O. Grosvenor, F. E. Scrase, F.R.C.P.
Holborn.—Councillor: Dr. W. R. Smith.
Kensington.—Councillor: F. H. Alderson, M.B., E. D. Vinrace, M.R.C.S.
Lambeth.—Alderman: J. G. Albert, L.D.S.

Lewisham.—Alderman: J. W. Elliott, M.R.C.S. (retired). Councillors F. J. L. Hart, M.B., F. S. Smyth, F.R.C.S., H. Visger, M.R.C.S.
St. Marylebone.—Councillors: L. A. Bidwell, F.R.C.S., and Dr. J. Edmunds.

Paddington.—Councillors: J. L. Atkinson, L.S.A., Dr. B. F. Popham, A. Prince, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., and D. A. Waite, M.R.C.S.

St. Pancras.—Alderman: W. Smith, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Councillors: J. A. Angus, W. F. Hazel, M.R.C.S., K. P. Long, L.F.P.S.Glasg., E. F. T. MacCarthy, L.R.C.P. & S.I., Dr. R. Paramore, and Dr. J. Thompson.

Shoreditch.—Councillor: Dr. J. Davies.

Southwark (including the Parishes of St. George the Martyr, Christchurch Southwark, St. Saviour Southwark, and Newington).—Alderman: W. G. Bott, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Councillor: Dr. E. C. Perry.

Stoke Newington (including the Parish of Stoke Newington and the Urban District of South Hornsey).—Councillor: R. Ostlere, M.B.

Wandsworth.—Alderman: Dr. Howell. Councillors: J. Gay, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., and C. R. Lucas, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Westminster (including the Parishes of St. Margaret and St. John Westminster, St. George Hanover Square, St. James Westminster, and St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the District of the Strand Board of Works, the Close of the Collegiate Church of St. Peter Westminster, and the Liberty of the Rolls).—Councillor: Dr. H. A. Des Vœux.

Woolwich.—Councillor: J. Jeken, M.R.C.S.

AN APPEAL.

A COMMITTEE consisting of Drs. H. Macnaughton-Jones and F. J. Smith, Mr. P. J. Freyer, Drs. Rogers, O'Dwyer, Daly, O'Malley, Cahill, Sheehan, and Mr. Winter, with Dr. R. Ambrose, M.P., 1, The Mount, Whitechapel Road, E., as Honorary Treasurer, and Dr. R. Moynahan, 150, Bethnal Green Road, N.E., as Honorary Secretary, have issued the following appeal on behalf of the family of the late Dr. Quinlivan, of 254, Bethnal Green Road:

We beg to bring before your notice this appeal as being one well deserving of your sympathy. Dr. Quinlivan died at the age of 36 years, unexpectedly, from an attack of acute pneumonia, leaving a widow and a family of seven children, whose ages range from 9 months to 13 years, unprovided for. The Committee confidently appeal to you to aid them in purchasing a small business by which the widow may support herself and her family.

The following subscriptions have been received:

	£	s.	d.
Dr. Starkie, 47, Sussex Street Warwick Square, W. ...	1	1	0
Dr. O'Donnell, 65, Judd Street, Brunswick Square, W.C. ...	2	2	0
Dr. McSheehy, Donoman, Denmark Avenue, Wimbledon ...	1	0	0
Dr. Moore, 53, Well Street, South Hackney ...	1	1	0
Dr. Grandy, 314, Commercial Road, E. ...	0	10	6
Dr. O'Meara, Haslar, High Road, South Tottenham ...	1	1	0
Dr. Neville, 123, Sloane Street, S.W. ...	2	2	0
Dr. Ambrose, M.P., 1, The Mount, Whitechapel Road ...	3	3	0
Dr. Wynn Westcott, 396, Camden Road, N. ...	1	1	0
Dr. Barragry, 150, Junction Road, N. ...	1	1	0
Dr. Gahagan, 178, Clerkenwell Road, E.C. ...	0	10	6
Dr. Moynahan, 150, Bethnal Green Road, N.E. ...	3	3	0
Dr. Ross, Eleanor Lodge, Dalston, N. ...	0	10	0
Mr. Jeremiah McCarthy, F.R.C.S. ...	5	5	0
A Friend, Finsbury Square ...	0	2	6
Dr. Molony, Murroe, co. Limerick ...	1	1	0
Dr. Mullane, 55, Union Road, Nottingham ...	1	1	0
Dr. Rogers, 103, Bethnal Green Road, N.E. ...	3	3	0
Dr. Barker, 47, Green Croft Gardens, N.W. ...	1	1	0
Dr. Campbell, Virginia Road, N.E. ...	0	10	6
Dr. M. Cahill, Ellesmere, Cheshire ...	1	1	0
Mr. Brooks, Bethnal Green Road, N.E. ...	0	5	0
Dr. W. Cahill, 217, Bethnal Green Road, N.E. ...	1	1	0
A Friend ...	0	2	6
Dr. M'Donnell, Hailsham, Sussex ...	1	1	0
Dr. O'Callaghan, 91, Duke Street, Park, Sheffield ...	1	0	0
Dr. H. Macnaughton-Jones, F.R.C.S.I. ...	5	5	0
Dr. M'Cormack, Mare Street, Hackney ...	0	10	0
Dr. Guthrie, Green Street, Bethnal Green, N.E. ...	1	1	0

BRADFORD SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.—A meeting of medical practitioners convened by a circular signed by the leading members of the Medico-Ethical Society and the Medical Union, was held on November 12th at the Victoria Hotel to consider the advisability of promoting the candidature of a medical man for the School Board. Mr. G. Gilchrist Burnie presided, and there was a large and influential gathering. Speeches were delivered by Dr. O'Brien, Mr. Metcalf, Dr. S. Johnson, Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Hime, and others, and finally it was resolved to adopt such a candidate. Three names were subsequently proposed, and ultimately Dr. Hime was unanimously elected as a candidate. Dr. Hime returned thanks for the honour conferred on him of being selected for such an important duty by the members of a profession so capable of forming a sound judgment on such a question. All present formed themselves into a committee with power to add to their numbers to forward the interests of the selected candidate.