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SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

Kindly Care.

An Appreciation of the Work at Littlehampton.

IT has been my misfortune, and good fortune, to spend a period of convalescence at Belgrave House, the Convalescent Hospital for sick and wounded soldiers, which is directed and administered by the Littlehampton Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

My treatment has been such as to prompt me publicly to tender grateful acknowledgment and profound thanks through the medium of the local Press, subject, of course, to the Editor granting me that privilege.

It would be impossible for one adequately to express all one feels in the way of appreciation at the time of leave-taking; and besides, I regard the matter as one deserving of publicity, for the institution, which reflects great credit upon its immediate workers in particular, also redounds generally to

The Credit of the Townspeople

of Littlehampton, who, when we once more arrive at a settled state of glorious Peace, may with pardonable pride claim to have done their bit towards

helping back to health and strength many hundreds of those brave men who have suffered in their Country's cause.

In the process the bright little health-giving resort of Littlehampton will be more widely known than hitherto, and will long be remembered in the grateful recollections of those to whom the hospitality has been so generously accorded.

Those kind people with whom the patients come into direct contact will, I know, receive these thanks with the claim that they are "only doing their duty," and I would be the last person to discourage that statement, for surely in our present National crisis everyone has a relative duty to perform. But I think it would be a great pity if such duty ever came to be regarded as a mere matter of form; and it is sincerely to be hoped that the time is far distant when such service, voluntarily accorded at the cost of much self-sacrifice, will fail to elicit that share of admiration, praise, and appreciation which is its due.

I trust I may not be exceeding the limits of good taste in referring, briefly, to domestic details of the Hospital. I have been struck with

The Splendid All-round Management

of the institution, the skilful and sympathetic nursing, and the very excellent general work which is accomplished there. It is apparent to the most casual observer that the predominant thought in the minds of the several ladies who are in attendance is the care and comfort of those committed to their charge: no work, no matter how menial which makes for this end, is considered too much trouble. Theirs is certainly a labour of love.

The administrative portion of the establishment is obviously carried out in a really businesslike fashion, and economy is exercised to a nicety without detracting from a generous response to all needs. I have noted in the annual report of the Branch of the Society, which recently appeared in the public Press, that the Government grant is not more than sufficient to provide a bare means of subsistence. Possibly this is due to the enormous increase in the cost of living since the War began; but by the aid of gifts of food, clothing, and the wherewithal to procure these articles, a very comfortable home is secured.

An appreciative note would be incomplete which did not contain a reference to the many good people who week by week assist in rendering the stay at Littlehampton more bright by entertaining Tommy either at the places of amusement, the Hospital, or in their own homes. The efforts of these people I know to be warmly appreciated.

A Well Deserved Reputation.

As a concluding paragraph I would say that before I came to Littlehampton Red Cross Convalescent Hospital I knew it by glowing reputation, and I have been convinced that there has been no exaggeration in that direction. Its reputation, so far as I am concerned, is fully earned, and under present management it cannot fail to be enhanced. I feel therefore that in penning these expressions of heartfelt thankfulness I am but echoing the feelings of the many men who have preceded me in a stay at Belgrave House, and in forecasting the feelings of those who may follow.

R. C. ADAMSON, R.E.