


GARSCUBE COTTAGE HOSPITAL

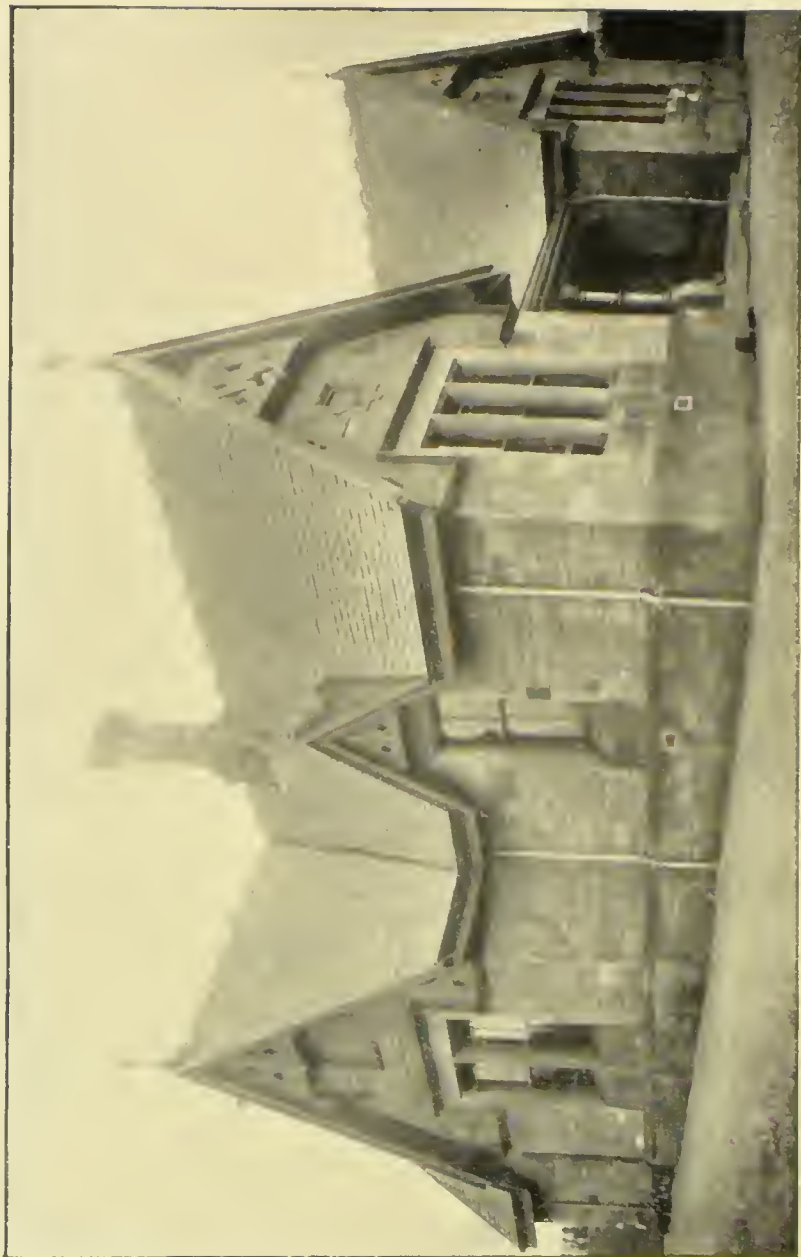
For Soldiers Suffering from
Incurable Diseases

TO
THE MEMORY OF THE LATE
LADY CAMPBELL OF GARSCUBE
WHOSE PROMPT GENEROSITY IN GRANTING THE USE
OF THE HOSPITAL MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR
THE COMMITTEE TO INITIATE AND
CARRY ON THE WORK



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GARSCUBE COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

At present being used for the treatment of soldiers suffering from incurable diseases.

Garscube Cottage Hospital

For Soldiers Suffering from
Incurable Diseases

BY

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PREFACE.

THIS short description of the work of the Garscube Cottage Hospital for Soldiers has been taken from the annual reports published by the Committee, but valuable information has also been received from the House Committee, the Honorary Physician, and Matron.

The work of the Hospital was begun in the year 1902 on account of the large number of soldiers coming under observation, who had returned from the South African war suffering from incurable diseases contracted while on active service, and who had been dismissed as no longer fit for duty. Those who interested themselves in the movement thought it right that something better should be provided for such men when dying, than a bed in one of the workhouse or parochial hospitals; in other words, the object of the hospital was

to provide a suitable place where necessary comforts could be given to dying soldiers, frequently friendless, mostly homeless, and in all cases, without the necessary means of bare existence.

The members of the committee do not think it is their duty to raise the question of whether this work should be done by the state or by private subscription. What they have felt and still realise, is, (after being assured by those in authority that the work they have undertaken is encroaching on no institution nor arrangement made by the state) that such men both in times of peace and war are sent back to civil life to end their days as best they can.

Thanks to the kindness of many whose generosity the committee gratefully acknowledge they have done what was in their power to give relief to soldiers whose needs appeared to them to be urgent and necessary.

They hope that the statements made in the following pages will show that the appeal for further financial assistance recently issued has been justified, and that when the general

question is raised the experience gained in the Garscube Cottage Hospital may be of use to those who may interest themselves in it. The question of what should be done with invalided soldiers has recently been discussed in the House of Commons, but until some other arrangement is come to the committee desire to carry on the work they have in hand. The question is not one for any political party, but one that should appeal to the nation at large.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE need of some institution which would provide for soldiers and sailors who have permanently lost their health in the service of their country has no doubt always existed. It is only, however, during a severe time of strain such as took place during the South African war that public attention is called to the fact. In ordinary times a lesser number of these unfortunate men pass unknown and unnoticed out of the ranks of the army into civil life to end their days as best they can. If they should be fortunate enough to have relatives or friends, or a small pension, they may to some extent be relieved of some of their sufferings. Many of them doubtless for short periods have in the past been admitted to the wards of general hospitals, but being incurable are not allowed to end their days there.

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Men who have been in the army and become invalided may be divided into three classes. Firstly, those who may have been at one time or another of their lives in the service and who have afterwards passed into civil life. Secondly, soldiers who while serving in the army have been invalided, and who may be able either to return to the service after convalescence or if discharged because of their unfitness to serve as soldiers may yet be fit for some duties in civil life, and thirdly, soldiers who as the result of wounds or disease contracted during active service in peace or in war have been discharged from the army as unfit for duty because they are considered to be incurable.

To attempt to found a hospital or home for every one suffering from incurable disease who has been in the service would be a serious task, as many men spend only a short time in the army and navy and for the rest of their lives may be looked upon as civilians. Such men naturally get in touch with different institutions wherever they are settled and receive many of the benefits which the different charitable

institutions provide nowadays in cities, towns or counties. That the claim which was made at first by the committee of the Garscube Hospital for soldiers was not such a broad one will be seen from the two documents published in the appendix, which led to the formation of the original committee. The idea was simply to found some institution in Scotland which would receive soldiers whose lives had been sacrificed in active service or while serving in the army during times of peace. These men often return home comparative strangers, and although they have been passed into the service after medical examination, are dismissed by the army medical boards as unfit for further service as the result of exposure, wounds or overwork. Surely, it is not too much to expect that such men when friendless and dying should have something better offered to them than a pauper's bed in a parochial hospital. As far as can be ascertained there is no organisation in connection with the army which aims at providing for these men. The late Principal Medical Officer, Sir William Taylor,

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K.P., K.C.M.G., on visiting the Garscube Cottage Hospital was asked whether he thought any other institution was providing for this class of cases, and he said he knew of no such help for incurable soldiers. Since then he has written a letter upon the subject in which he says: "I have read now, with the greatest interest, the reports you sent me, and I have no hesitation in repeating the opinion I expressed two years ago, viz., that the Garscube Cottage Hospital for soldiers, at Maryhill, does a work of the most useful and beneficent kind, and one which must have a very beneficial effect upon recruiting for the army. There cannot be the least doubt that the fear of being disabled or unfit, or discharged from the army, and of becoming nobody's bairn, but only a castaway and a pauper, keeps many men from enlisting, and the knowledge that there is such a hospital as the one so generously provided by the late Lady Campbell, and so liberally supported by Sir Archibald and Lady Campbell, will very greatly remove that deterrent fear among those in your neighbourhood from whom

soldiers are recruited. Such an institution cannot help having a very far-reaching influence for good in many directions and ways, besides that of relieving the sufferings of those men admitted to its wards for treatment, and I wish it continued success, and all of you also who so generously and nobly devote so much of your time to the excellent work it does."

The British Public does not withhold its praise for the heroic deeds of soldiers and sailors, and the Country is not ungrateful to them for the efforts which have gained our army and navy the distinguished place which they enjoy in the history of our country. This was made apparent by the magnificent efforts of the people in providing comforts for our soldiers during the last war, and for the material help given to the wives and children left at home. The recent organisation of the Red Cross Society under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, will no doubt render even more efficient aid, should we unfortunately again be engaged in a serious campaign. When the last war broke out it

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was soon felt that had some organisation been already in existence the needful aid would have been rendered much more quickly, and with greater economy, for much confusion was bound to exist when each centre took upon itself certain duties without understanding exactly what its neighbours were doing. An organisation such as that which is now being aimed at would have been invaluable, as each centre would have known exactly what it was expected to do, and could have made preparation in advance.

While all organisations for helping those actively engaged in warfare and those depending upon them are to be commended, the men, sometimes married and with families, who return to their country ruined in health and prospects should not be lost sight of. That there will always be such men there can be no doubt, because it must not be forgotten that while we have only now and again upon our hands a large military enterprise like the late South African war, the British Empire is more or less constantly engaged in the arduous work of lesser expeditions within more limited

areas, and this fact, coupled with the ordinary severe duties which attach to the life of the soldier or sailor will always cause a certain number, even during times of peace, to be discharged as unfit for further service. These are just as much entitled to the care and attention of the country as those who suffer while engaged in a long campaign. It is, however, surely impossible to believe that, if the attention of the people of this country be drawn to such men, something will not be done for them either by public or state aid. It is to be hoped that the experience gained in carrying on this little hospital for the last three years may serve to indicate to those in authority and others interested, how far such hospitals are needed, and to give some idea of the class of cases requiring attention, the amount of financial support needed, and the results which have so far been obtained.

BEGINNING OF THE WORK.

IN the year 1902 a man was taken into the wards of the Royal Infirmary who had been found in the streets unconscious and bleeding severely from the mouth. Examination showed that he was suffering from incurable cancer of the tongue; the bleeding was arrested and an operation was performed for temporary relief to the breathing, but it was evident that his case was quite incurable. As general hospitals cannot keep such patients in the wards indefinitely, inquiry was made of the military authorities to see what could be done for him, but it was found that, as he had been dismissed from the service after examination by the army surgeons, there was no institution under state control to which we could send him. As far as malignant disease is concerned we have in Glasgow an excellent institution, the Cancer

Hospital, and the authorities there have been very kind in this particular class of cases, but that hospital, of course, is only for one kind of disease. It seemed strange that a man who had served in South Africa, who was amongst the first to land in Natal, who had been in all the Colenso engagements, had helped to pull the guns up to Spion Kop, and had finally entered Ladysmith with the relieving army should, as far as the authorities were concerned, be left to end his days in a workhouse.

At the same time Miss W. S. Davidson of the Soldiers' Home, Maryhill, came across the case of a man suffering from consumption, and being in the same difficulty she had in the end to fall back upon the Friedenheim Hospital in London, an institution doing magnificent work of the same kind for civilians under the benevolent care of her sister, Miss Davidson, a lady whose name will ever be associated with this special work in the metropolis. The patient was sent with a sergeant all the way to London from Glasgow, the railway company kindly providing a third class compartment for their accommodation, but although he

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arrived safely, and everything possible was done for his comfort, he died three days afterwards.

Quite independently, and without knowing what Miss Davidson had done, the writer of this short work represented matters to some people in Glasgow and the West of Scotland interested in helping soldiers returning from the war. The results were so encouraging that he made an appeal by means of a circular to the citizens of Glasgow asking for the necessary funds to found some temporary institution which would meet the requirements of such cases, and Miss W. S. Davidson wrote a letter to the *Times* pointing out the necessities of the cases and the difficulty of dealing with them. The original appeal sent out, and a letter from Miss Davidson to the *Times*, will be found in the appendix. The above-mentioned publications were issued soon after the outbreak of the South African war, and fortunately as the cases were urgent a generous response was the result. The most important help of all was given by the late Lady Campbell of Garscube, who, on learning

of the difficulties, kindly placed a private hospital on the Garscube estate, erected to the memory of her husband, at the disposal of those interested in the matter.

It would be impossible to overestimate the value of such a gift, because the hospital was already thoroughly equipped with every requirement for eight or ten beds, was situated within two minutes' walk of the car terminus at Maryhill, and yet was beautifully secluded, so that the patients had the advantage of being near the town and of having suitable bright surroundings, rest, quietness, sunshine, and fresh air. In addition to all this, Lady Campbell gave her whole personal interest and undivided attention to the scheme, and it may be safely said that it continued to be one of the objects most cherished by this benevolent lady until the day of her death. Her successor, Sir Archibald Campbell, of Succoth, Lady Campbell, and other members of the family, have taken the same interest in the work, and have materially assisted financially. The ladies and gentlemen interested in the soldiers are very sensible of their kindness.

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As soon as the initial difficulty had been got rid of a meeting was called of those interested in the matter. Her Royal Highness The Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein was graciously pleased to take an interest in the work and gave her name as Patron. Her Royal Highness The Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyle, was also graciously pleased to state that when the pressure on the hospital was great, her excellent Home at Rosneath which has done so much good work for invalid soldiers might be of service in some cases. This offer was extremely gratifying to the committee for the good reason that, notwithstanding the fact that all the patients admitted to the Garscube Hospital have been looked upon as incurable, still, in a few instances, they have recovered, and a coast residence of this sort, even for a short time for those convalescing was bound to be of the greatest service.

DESCRIPTION OF THE HOSPITAL.

THE photograph of the Garscube Cottage Hospital (see Frontispiece) will show any one how fortunate the committee were in obtaining its use. As has already been stated it is conveniently situated within a few minutes' walk of the Maryhill car, a boon not only to the patients themselves but to the friends who desire to see them or are interested in their welfare. The hospital is so surrounded by trees that one would scarcely notice it unless it were pointed out, but once the upper part of the short approach is reached, it is found to be built on a slight elevation with delightful open air surroundings, giving the patients complete benefit of fresh air and sunshine. It was erected by the late Lady Campbell as a memorial of her husband, Sir George Campbell of Succoth, and consists of five large rooms

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which serve as wards, a small sitting room which has been found most useful as a side room for patients seriously ill. There is a good kitchen with some accommodation for servants and all other necessary conveniences.

The hospital can take in eight patients comfortably although in emergency there is bedroom accommodation for an extra case or two. The east and north-west rooms are occupied by the sister in charge and the nurses. The building is well lighted, and is heated by open coal fires.

An interesting feature of the hospital is a workshop added to it by a patient. Some of the men are anxious to do a little work, which not only amuses them but serves the useful purposes of occupying their time as long as they are able for it. Tools are provided for wood carving, brass work, etc.

The building has a verandah looking to the west where patients may sit and work or read in the open air, and while this is exceedingly useful for all patients it forms an excellent resting-place for consumptives.

A critical examination of the hospital accord-

ing to modern views would show that there are some things to be desired. For example, consumptive patients would be better kept apart, and, if the state should ever undertake the work or if special hospitals were built for the purpose no doubt the consumptives would have separate buildings prepared for their use. While this is true the hospital has served the desired purpose as it is, and has proved of immense value to those who have been benefited by residence in it.

THE CLASS OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

FROM what has been stated in the introduction it will be clear that the hospital is intended for men who are seriously ill and who are believed to be dying. It follows that some remain as patients for a long time, but others are practically in a dying condition when admitted. In one case, a man suffering from cardiac disease died the day following his admission to the hospital, and a few have survived only two or three weeks. On the other hand, in one instance—a severe case of ulceration—the patient was over three years in the hospital. Considering that it only provides eight beds when working at ordinary pressure, it is gratifying to know that during the past three years over fifty patients have been admitted to the hospital. An interesting feature of the work, however, has

been that some cases admitted as apparently incurable have recovered and have been dismissed as improved sufficiently to allow them to go outside. In a few cases some relatives or friends interested in the patients, and able to assist them, have come forward, and naturally enough, there is now and again a desire on the part of the patients to die amongst their own people, however poor these may be.

A fair idea of the work done in the hospital may be taken from the list of patients admitted in 1904. During that year there were some patients who had been admitted in preceding years, but in all there were ten new cases, five of them died in the hospital, three were still there in September of this year, while one case of epilepsy had been dismissed improved, and one case of consumption, though still seriously ill, left to go to some friends who had promised to take him. In other words, one half of the cases died in the hospital and three are still there and not expected to recover. From this it will be seen that the patients admitted were just of the class for which the hospital was intended.

THE KIND OF CASES ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL.

THE following table will show the affections from which patients suffered on admission to the hospital. It will be seen that consumption is the most frequent cause of loss of health. The figures relate to the first forty cases admitted during the first three years :

Consumption,	-	-	-	-	17
Paralysis,	-	-	-	-	5
Heart Disease,	-	-	-	-	4
Debility,	-	-	-	-	3
Bright's Disease,	-	-	-	-	2
Aneurism,	-	-	-	-	2
Cancer,	-	-	-	-	2
Diabetes,	-	-	-	-	1
Ulcers,	-	-	-	-	1
Gunshot Wounds,	-	-	-	-	1
Epilepsy,	-	-	-	-	1
Locomotor Ataxy,	-	-	-	-	1

SOURCES FROM WHICH THE MEN ARE DRAWN.

OF the first forty cases admitted to the hospital it was found that nine had served in the Highland Light Infantry, five in the Gordon Highlanders, four in the Royal Scottish Fusiliers, and three in the King's Own Border Regiment. The Scottish Rifles, the Royal Army Medical Corps, the Cameron Highlanders, Seaforth Highlanders, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and 9th Lancers all sent two patients each, and the Duke of Cambridge's 30th Regiment, the Royal Horse Artillery, the 1st Border Regiment, the 17th Lancers, the Royal Marine Artillery, the Royal Garrison Artillery, the 2nd Dragoon Guards, and the 7th and 18th Hussars all sent one each. From this it will be seen that patients from every branch of the army have been admitted to the hospital during the past three years.

FINANCES.

THE committee has been generously helped in the work and are grateful to all those who have interested themselves in the movement. Above all, the greatest assistance is the use of the fully equipped hospital itself. When the late Lady Campbell, the first president, placed the hospital at the disposal of the committee, much was done to reduce the cost. The present president, Lady Campbell and her husband, Sir Archibald Campbell, Bart., of Succoth, have not only given the use of the hospital, but have helped materially in its finances. The greatest possible service was rendered by the prompt and generous gifts of two sums, one from the Lord Provost's Fund and the other from the *Glasgow Herald* War Fund, and in representing the claims of the hospital to such bodies, the committee has

been greatly indebted to Her Grace, the Duchess of Montrose and Dr. Robert Gourlay, for their interest generally during the past three years, and specially in this direction. Subscriptions have, from time to time, been most generously given by the public who indeed have contributed, by means of large and small sums, the greater part of the funds, and in this connection it is right to observe that material help has been received from army officers. Not the least interesting part of the financial aid is that given by some of the patients themselves, although as might be expected, the actual amount contributed by them must always be small. Sometimes a soldier has a small pension, and one of the best testimonies to the appreciation of the hospital has been the willingness on the patients' part to give up what they could, by way of doing something towards the cost of the hospital.

The question which arises in connection with all hospitals is the cost of up-keep. As is well known from a study of hospital statistics generally, the cost per bed in

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different hospitals varies approximately from £140 per bed, per annum, to £45. The situation of a hospital, and the work it undertakes, apart from all questions of economy, determine to a large extent these differences.

It will easily be understood that an institution like the Garscube Cottage Hospital must cost a fair amount per bed owing to the serious nature of the cases. The expense for washing, cleansing, etc., is great. Then, the different diseases from which these incurable patients are suffering necessitate the provision of foods different from the average which would be given as a routine in ordinary hospitals. Everything pertaining to the comfort of the patients has been carefully considered, the question of keeping down expenses is constantly regulated by the monthly meeting of the House Committee, and although extras in the way of diet and stimulants are not withheld when required, they are only ordered under the most careful supervision. Judging from all the above stand-points, it is satisfactory to know that the last year's cost (exclusive of the expense which

would have been incurred if the cost of the use of the hospital had to be estimated) was about £60 per bed. In connection with the upkeep of this particular hospital, it should be remembered that, considering the small number of beds, the average cost per bed per annum is higher than a hospital with a larger number of beds would be, and there are always additional expenses, *e.g.* occasionally the committee have to provide for the cost of burial when the patients die without friends. About £400 to £450 per annum have to be collected to keep the hospital working.

HOW THE HOSPITAL IS WORKED.

THE general control of the hospital is undertaken by the executive committee as a whole, and meetings at intervals are called by the Hon. secretary, Mr. Allan F. Baird, whose kindness and counsel in matters of administration have contributed greatly to efficiency and success.

It need hardly be pointed out that the most serious and important part of the care of the patients is in relation to the medical aspect of the work and the committee were fortunate from the very first in securing the services of Dr. John Kennedy of Bearsden as Hon. Physician. For the past three years Dr. Kennedy has been in constant attendance on the patients. Committee and nurses are unanimous in their praise of the skill, kindness and consideration which he has shown from

first to last. His work has been entirely honorary, and the members of the committee will for ever feel grateful to him.

The important work of the nursing department must also be referred to. With the help of the nurses under her control Sister Willott has done everything for patients in most distressing circumstances.

The house committee, largely composed of ladies, meets once a month at the hospital. The duties are important, amongst others being the investigation of the condition of applicants in regard to suitability for admission. While careful investigation is made, no questions other than those that are necessary are asked, and above all the religious question is not entered into, because the hospital is meant to be for incurable soldiers of all creeds or of none. Not the least important part of the duties are those pertaining to the economy of the working of the hospital, the receiving of reports from the matron and visits to the patients themselves. The convener of the House Committee, Mr. C. W. Ralston, has been very intimately associated with the

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daily routine work, and his frequent visits in matters of urgency between the stated dates of meeting have been a source of the greatest satisfaction to other members of the general committee. His unremitting attention must be gratefully placed on record. The House Committee reports from time to time to the general committee.

In connection with the visits to the hospital, it will easily be gathered that the ladies on the Committee perform certain duties to the class of patients admitted which could only be carried out by them. It need hardly be pointed out that when patients are suffering from incurable diseases of a long standing nature there are times when tact combined with firmness is required, but the instances in which there has been any difficulty with the patients have fortunately been very few in number. On the contrary, the patients all speak with the greatest gratitude of the care which is bestowed upon them. Questions arising about communicating with friends, wishes expressed, and delicate attentions to those who are approaching their end, have all to be considered. Such work

can best be carried out by the ladies, and in this connection it may be pointed out that the late Lady Campbell of Garscube set an excellent example, for as long as she lived one of her greatest pleasures was, along with her sister, Miss Borough, or her friend, Miss Campbell, who were also keenly devoted to the work of the hospital, to visit the patients almost daily when at Garscube.

Lady Campbell, the present president, is rendering great service in the same way. The names of the ladies on the House Committee at present are, in addition to the Lady Campbell, Mrs. Charles Collins, Mrs. E. Collins, Miss Collins, Miss W. S. Davidson, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Hector, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Macintyre, Miss M'Call Anderson, and Miss Collins, and the interest which they take in the welfare of the patients cannot be overestimated. Mrs. P. A. Simpson, although now in London, still keeps up her interest in and remembers the workers and patients, and Mrs. Hector regularly visits the patients to instruct in wood carving, etc.

From what has been recorded in these pages

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an idea may be gained of the reasons which led to the initiation of the work, the description of the building, and as to what might be required in future hospitals devoted to a similar purpose, also as to the class of patients admitted, the diseases from which they suffered, the sources from which they are drawn, the income required, and generally, how the hospital has been worked.

The Committee, while recognising in the fullest degree the help which has been so generously given by the public, realise they have no reserve funds, and therefore, as is the case with many other institutions, the existence of the hospital is a precarious one. How long it may be continued in the future will depend upon the support which it may receive until such time as the State may decide to undertake the work. In any case, when the question of what the State should do for invalided soldiers is raised, it is to be hoped that the experience gained by the Committee of the Garscube Cottage Hospital may be of some service in guiding to a decision. What has been accomplished in the institution is only a

small part of a greater work which ought to be taken in hand ; but with the limited means and accommodation at their disposal the Committee have done what they could to relieve some of the most serious and necessitous cases brought before them.

APPENDIX.

*Letter from MISS DAVIDSON, Soldiers' Home, Maryhill.
The "TIMES," London, 25th March, 1902.*

"Numbers of our soldiers are being discharged from the Army suffering more or less acutely from consumption, and many of them contracted the disease while on active service, owing to the exposure and privations they then suffered. Is a pauper's bed in a workhouse infirmary, and association with the aged and decrepit, or the diseased and the vicious, all the country can offer to these brave young men, often of superior education, character, and sentiments? Too often they have no home or friends who can receive them when discharged as medically unfit for further service, and now that the infectious nature of the disease is so well known no one will take a consumptive patient or attend to him in private lodgings. A soldier's means are so small that he is quite unable to pay the necessary fees to admit him into any of the new sanatoria, and none of the convalescent homes for soldiers (established chiefly for the use of wounded men) can admit advanced cases of consumption on account of the other patients. There are at this moment three soldiers in Maryhill Garrison, Glasgow, suffering from consumption. Two

of them expect to receive their discharge in a week or so. They are too ill to work ; they have no funds to support themselves, and they have implored me to get them into some hospital. I have repeatedly tried to find such a place in Scotland, but in vain. The Victoria Hospital, Craigleith, Edinburgh, would be suitable, but there are so many applicants for admission there that I was told it must be nine or ten months before my poor soldiers' cases could be considered. Could not one or other of the small existing convalescent homes for soldiers be at once converted into a home for consumptive cases only? Even one such home would be an inestimable boon ; and surely this is not too much to expect, as it could be easily accomplished, if only some one with the heart and the ability would take the matter in hand at once, for the sake of the men whose lives have been sacrificed at their country's call."

*Original Circular sent out appealing for Subscriptions
for the work.*

179 BATH STREET,
GLASGOW, 15th May, 1902.

SIR,

In Scotland at the present time a number of soldiers dying of consumption or other affections brought on by exposure during the present war, and who have no one to look after them, are in need of help, as no institution with the exception of the poorhouse, can admit them. Similar cases are frequently under obser-

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vation in our general hospitals in civil life, and the same difficulty exists in connection with them.

A great many of these patients, if not the majority, are suffering from consumption, and the difficulties of dealing with such cases are becoming greater every day. While the public, owing to the most recent and forcible teaching of the medical profession, are becoming more convinced of the necessity of adopting measures, public or charitable, to prevent the spread of the diseases, sufficient has not yet been done in a practical way to meet the urgent and pressing demands of a large section of the community which is requiring attention, and which constitutes a danger to others. People affected in this way may be very slightly or very seriously involved, but for the worst and most advanced cases no institution exists near Glasgow except the hospital provided by the parish authorities.

The first general meeting of the West of Scotland Society for the prevention of and treatment of those suffering from tuberculosis has just been held, and no doubt in due time public opinion will be sufficiently strong to enable those in authority to incur the necessary and very great expense which will be required from a national standpoint. Meanwhile, however, there is need of some place for those dying from such chronic affections until something be obtained from State or Municipal authorities, and this remark applies both to military and civil life.

At present seven cases are under observation of men who have sacrificed their health, and are dying in consequence of services rendered on behalf of their country, and it is for such as these an appeal is being made. Although application has been made to some of the military authorities who are quite in sympathy with

the movement, there does not meantime seem much hope of aid from them. Surely something might and ought to be done in the interests of such men short of consigning them to a pauper's bed in a workhouse hospital.

Such patients are dismissed from general hospitals because nothing can be done for them, no convalescent homes will take them in, they are debarred from entrance to sanatoria for fresh air treatment because they have not the necessary means and the disease is too advanced. The foundation of a small home or hospital is therefore justified if we admit that they deserve something better of their country than workhouse accommodation. Incurable homes, although admirably suited for such cases, are for the most part reserved for chronic ailments, and the time which a patient requires to wait for admission renders them of little use to men who have only the matter of a few weeks to live.

Lady Campbell of Garscube has, with great generosity, placed a thoroughly well equipped cottage hospital, containing eight beds, at the disposal of the Committee for the period of one year, for the accommodation of soldiers from any Scotch depot. The hospital, most conveniently situated a few minutes' walk from the Maryhill car terminus, has an excellent site, giving the necessary light and fresh air in beautiful and secluded grounds. It contains everything necessary for the nursing of such invalids and the accommodation of the staff, but it is calculated from past experience that it will require £500 to carry on the work for one year. At the end of this time it will be seen how far the institution has justified its existence, and the questions whether a smaller or larger institution will afterwards be required or whether it should be extended to others than those who have been engaged in the services can only be

46 Garscube Cottage Hospital

determined after trial, and when it is seen whether State or Municipal help is to be got for such patients.

The hospital is practically ready for the reception of patients, and intended for soldiers discharged or about to leave the service. Although the majority are suffering from consumption it is not to be limited to those suffering from this affection.

On the other side will be found the names of a Committee suggested by those who are interesting themselves in the matter, and who have agreed to act upon it.

I remain, yours faithfully,

JOHN MACINTYRE.

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