



Poetry.

THE AGED STRANGER.

AN INCIDENT OF THE WAR.

"I was with Grant," the stranger said;
Said the farmer: "Say no more,
But rest thee here at my cottage porch,
For thy feet are weary and sore."
"I was with Grant," the stranger said;
Said the farmer: "Nay, no more—
Aye, prithee sit at my fragrant board,
And eat of my humble store."
"How fares my boy—my soldier boy,
Of the old Ninth Army Corps?
I warrant he bore him gallantly
In the smoke and the battle's roar!"
"I know him not," said the aged man,
"And, as I remarked before,
I was with Grant"—"Nay, nay, I know,"
Said the farmer, "say no more;"
"He fell in battle—I see, alas!
Thou'st smooth these things o'er—
Nay; speak the truth, whatever it be,
Though it rend my bosom's cure."
"How fell he—with his face to the foe,
Upholding the flag he bore?
O, say not that my boy deserted
The uniform that he wore!"
"I cannot tell," said the aged man,
"And should have remarked before,
That I was with Grant—in Illinois,
Some three years before the war!"
Then the farmer spoke him never a word,
But beat with his fist full sore
That aged man who had worked for Grant
Some three years before the war.

History of the "Ward" U. S. A. General Hospital.

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Of the twenty-eight hundred (2800) patients received into the Hospital for treatment up to the first day of December, 1862, five hundred and thirty-five (535) were discharged on Surgeon's certificate of disability, eighty-five (85) died in Hospital, two hundred and eighteen (218) deserted, a few were transferred to other Hospitals, and about one thousand (1000) were returned to duty in the field. There remained in Hospital on the above mentioned date, eight hundred and eighty-one (881) patients. But little more than one-half of those discharged the service at the Hospital, were discharged on account of wounds, or injuries received while in the discharge of military duty; over two hundred being on account of "rheumatism," "old age," "general debility," and the different varieties of hernia. Some of these disabilities may have been produced or developed by accidents, or other sources of disease, incident to military life; but in the majority of cases, it may be safely assumed that they were inadvertently admitted into the service to be got rid of only in this way; for it is notorious, that during the years sixty-one and two, large numbers of men were enlisted and mustered into the army who were, by age, or physical infirmity, totally incapable of performing military duty, who never reached the front, never saw the enemy, or did a day's duty in camp or field, but contributed largely to fill up the General Hospitals, and add materially to the annoyances connected with Hospital management, by introducing a spirit of discontent and insubordination. Strangers to military rule, unharmed by the rough experience of the field, they were sadly in need of just those

qualifications which lead a worthy battle-worn soldier to appreciate the many comforts which our Hospitals generally afforded. Conceiving themselves to be the martyrs in our country's service, they have ever been prolific in their appeals to philanthropic individuals and associations.—Of all complaints, oral or written, which for the last three years have been whispered in the ear of the philanthropist, or sent broadcast over the land through the medium of newspapers, concerning the treatment of the poor soldier in Hospital, fourths, at least, have had their origin among this class of men, who have latterly become more familiarly known as "Hospital beats," "Government frauds," etc., etc. With the records of this Hospital before us, we shall certainly believe "republishes ungrateful" if some substantial evidence of Government appreciation is not bestowed upon Dr. Janeway for relieving the service of so many of this class.

Of the eighty-five who died in this Hospital previous to the first day of December, 1862, twelve died during the month of August, forty-three during the month of September. This is the greatest mortality on record for any one month during the history of the Hospital, and resulted from the extremely reduced and hopeless condition of the patients when admitted. Twenty-one died during the month of October, and nine during the month of November. The causes of death were as follows: Typhoid Fever, 43; Camp Diarrhea, 19; Consumption, 8; Enteritis, 1; Dysentery, 2; Bright's Disease of Kidney, 1; Acute Gastritis, 2; Diphtheria, 1; Heart Disease, 2; Drowned, 1; Inflammation of Brain, 1; Railroad Injury, 1;—Bronchitis, 1; Hemorrhage, 2.

During the autumn of sixty-two, the great amount of labor, both mental and physical, required of the Commanding Surgeon, began to affect seriously Doctor Janeway's health; he gradually sank until about the middle of November, when he was prostrated with fever, and remained confined to his room during the remainder of the month. On the first day of December, 1862, Surgeon George Taylor, U.S.A., by order of the War Department, assumed charge of the Hospital. Assistant Surgeon Janeway, then barely able to leave his room, proceeded as rapidly as his feeble health would permit, to transfer all Government property in his possession to Surgeon Taylor, after which he remained on duty at the Hospital, as Executive Officer, until August, '63, when, by order of the War Department, he was sent to Hilton Head, South Carolina, to take charge of Hospitals at that place. During his administration, Dr. Janeway had accumulated a large Hospital Fund, two thousand dollars of which was, on the first day of December, 1862, transferred to the Chestnut Hill Hospital, at Philadelphia. Evidently believing in the axiom that "charity should begin at home," Surgeon Taylor soon after expended the balance of this fund for such articles as were required to add to the comfort of the patients in this Hospital. And this rule has ever since been observed in

relation to the Hospital Fund.

Surgeon Taylor, on assuming charge of the Hospital, immediately set on foot important improvements, having for their object the better accommodation of the sick, and the increased comfort of all the inmates of the Hospital. He also issued, in orders, certain rules and regulations, more strictly military than any hitherto issued, and without regard to the approval or disapproval of these well-meaning citizens, whose innocent intermeddling had caused his predecessor so much embarrassment. These regulations were such as experience in the service had taught him were absolutely necessary for the proper government of the Hospital, and a strict compliance with which he ever inflexibly demanded, resorting to harsh means, however, with the greatest reluctance. In closing Special Order, No. 1, of December 1st, 1862, he says: "A cheerful compliance with the rules and regulations of the Hospital will contribute to the comfort of all concerned, and it is greatly to be desired that no harsh means will be necessary to enforce the discipline of the Hospital."—Though somewhat reserved, he was yet mild and affable in his personal intercourse with those officially connected with him. "To all obliging yet reserved to all," and with few words compelled a strict observance of the regulations he had adopted.—Officers and men soon found in him an efficient officer, a competent surgeon, an amiable gentleman, and a true friend. The affairs of the Hospital, as may be inferred, progressed favorably under his administration. Soon after his arrival a vacancy occurred in the Medical Staff, by the departure of Dr. Samuel H. Orton, who, as we have before stated, received an appointment as Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Army, and was ordered to the Department of the Gulf.—This vacancy was filled by A. A. Surgeon Wm. H. King, who reported for duty on the fifth day of March, 1863. Dr. King had been in attendance on the sick in the fever wards of Bellevue Hospital, New York, during the prevalence of ship fever, and shortly after his arrival at the Hospital symptoms of fever occurred, which speedily assumed a congestive form, and on the 22d of March, seventeen days after his arrival, he died at the Hospital. His body was removed to Massachusetts for burial. An impressive funeral service was held at the Hospital, and the remains were followed by the Medical Staff, and a proper military escort, beyond the city limits. A medical officer was detailed to accompany the remains to the place of interment.

The death of Dr. King, with the departure of Dr. Whitehead for duty in the West as Ass't Surgeon in the Regular Army, left two vacancies, which were filled, April 20th and 22d, 1863, by A. A. Surgeons A. M. Mills and Charles Phelps. The former, soon after assigned to duty at the Hospital, was placed in charge of the Market St. Branch, relieving A. A. Surg. A. L. Lowell, who, in consequence of ill health, soon after resigned. Dr. Mills continued in charge of the Market St. Branch until December, 1863, when he

was appointed Executive Officer. He was succeeded by A. A. Surgeon E. P. Nichols in the charge of the Market St. Hospital, who continued in charge until the final abandonment of that building, on the 1st of April, 1865. Dr. Mills continued on duty at the Hospital as Executive Officer until the 27th of August, 1864, when, by order of the Medical Director of the Department, he assumed charge of the Hospital, relieving Surgeon Taylor, who, by order of the War Department, reported at the Headquarters, Army of the Potomac, for duty. During Dr. Taylor's administration, there were admitted into the Hospital for treatment, thirty-five hundred and forty-four (3544) patients. Of these, nine hundred and fifty-seven (957) were discharged on Surgeon's Certificate of Disability; eighty-three (83) died in Hospital; twenty-two (22) of Chronic Diarrhea; Erysipelas, 2; Bright's Disease of Kidney, 1; Typhoid Fever, 6; Consumption, 12; Diphtheria, 1; Congestion of Lungs, 1;—Abscess, 2; Railroad Injury, 3; Paralysis, 3; Gun-shot wounds, 8; Tetanus, 1; Exhaustion, 1; Drowned, 2; Small Pox, 2; Apoplexy, 1; Typhus Fever, 1; Congestion of Brain, 2; Compression of Brain, 2; Intemperance, 2; Enteritis, 1; Pycæmia, 2; Dysentery, 1; Gangrene, 3; Pneumonia, 1. A large number were transferred to other Hospitals, a few deserted, and about two thousand were returned to duty in the field.

During the latter part of the winter of sixty-two and three, the number of patients remaining in the Hospital diminished to about three hundred. The leases on the buildings were to expire on the first of April, 1863, and it was thought by some that the Hospital would be discontinued. Through the efforts of the Hon. Marcus L. Ward, representing at Washington the claims of the State of New Jersey and her soldiers, and the probable necessity of its continuance in view of the then approaching campaign, the leases were renewed, and all its departments prepared for the reception of patients to its full capacity. During the months of April and May, a large number of patients were admitted from Washington and vicinity; in June, the battles of Beverly Ford and Winchester furnished a considerable number. On June 20, 1864, 208 patients, all New Jersey soldiers, were received from David's Island by steamer Thos. P. Way (many of these were quite serious cases, a large number having hospital gangrene); and, on the 10th of July, there were admitted from the battle-field of Gettysburg, six hundred and fifty patients, nearly every one of whom were wounded, the wounds being principally of the head and upper extremities. This peculiarity, however, was no indication of the nature or seat of wounds generally received in that great battle, for these had undoubtedly been selected from among the wounded on the field, with a view to their transportation to this place. This was the largest number of patients received at any one time during Dr. Taylor's administration.

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