

A CHEERY HOME

RED CROSS OFFERS GENIAL SPIRIT TO ALL.

Since the quarantine has gone into effect at Camp Greene and the huts of the "Y" and the K. of C. are closed to gatherings of soldiers, one has a task on his hands who tries to find recreation for his hours off duty.

Around the Base Hospital there has sprung into existence a building which, to the few who know of its location, has proven a veritable oasis in the desert of quarantine. We refer to the Red Cross building situated in the quadrangle formed by the convalescent wards.

After dark of an evening "when the toils of a long day are o'er" the cheerful beckoning light in the cupola on the roof signifies to all observers that open house prevails and so thither we hie, eager to escape the chilling blast of the Autumn winds and bent on whiling away the hours till call to quarters is sounded for the hospital personnel.

On entering the building one is at once struck with its "homey" appearance. Pine logs blaze and crackle in two open fireplaces and around each fire are gathered representatives of all ranks in the Base Hospital. Easy chairs are in abundance and the occupants are either in groups enjoying a social conversational hour or the more literary inclined as absorbed in the newspapers and magazines of current issue.

We have not proceeded far on our journey across the spacious floor toward the circle around the fires when we are met by a lady who at once sets us at ease and gives us official welcome to the House. She is Mrs. W. H. Baldwin and is designated by the Red Cross to be Hostess of the House. Born in Kentucky, she is endowed with all that subtle grace and charm innate in her Southern sisters and with irresistible smiles and winning ways soon imbues us with the spirit of the Red Cross—a spirit which has prompted so much sacrifice by the women of our country for their brothers in arms. And our delightful hostess has made the sacrifice of home and social activities to accept her present position.

Mrs. Baldwin's husband is a major in the Medical Corps at Camp Gordon and she volunteered her services to her country soon after the war broke out. She opened the Red Cross Building at Camp Gordon—the first of its kind in the Southern Department and having made a huge success of her initial undertaking was sent here to open the House in the Base Hospital at Camp Greene.

Her work along the lines she has chosen is all the more difficult in that there are no precedents to follow and she must therefore suit her plans and actions to the circumstances in which she is placed. Her heart is centered in her work and the results already obtained give promise of unexcelled success in her work of the future.

The Red Cross House is primarily intended as a recreation centre for

convalescent patients, in the Base Hospital. In addition the enlisted personnel of the hospital detachment are extended a hearty invitation to make use of it. Equipped with a magnificent stage, a large library, and a moving picture machine the building poses all the requisites of an ideal convalescent home. Hidden away in inconspicuous corners of the House are the quarters of the Red Cross personnel and in addition there are twelve rooms—guest rooms—for the accommodation of the relatives of soldiers dangerously ill at the hospital. During bright days the sunlight floods the House through series of windows while the lighting effect is heightened by a spacious dome of glass.



Photo by Toohey.

MRS. THEODOCIA BALDWIN.

The general tone of the interior and furnishings is of a soft brown hue and as the blaze on the open hearth is reflected on the walls and ceilings, one is brought back to medieval old England, when festive gatherings made merry in baronial halls. The advent of the entire furnishings for the House has been considerably delayed so the visitor may be disappointed at the bare appearance of the place in general. It may not be amiss to mention here that donations of furniture and odds and ends for interior decoration will be gratefully received and acknowledged while the want of potted plants to grace the sills of the large windows is very much felt.

Our genial hostess emphasizes the opportunities afforded the enlisted personnel at the Base Hospital to make use of the building and wishes it made known that any entertainment which they plan to give will have her hearty co-operation. The enlisted men of the U. S. Army are her adopted children and she surely assumes the role of foster mother in a way reminiscent of evenings spent with own mothers around our friends in "Home, Sweet Home."

To make the Red Cross House "a

TWO COLONELS

CAME TO CAMP GREENE FROM CAMP WADSWORTH.

Colonel J. C. Boice and Lieutenant-Colonel M. R. Brand, who were formerly stationed at Camp Wadsworth have reported for duty at Camp Greene.

Colonel Brand has been in Washington, D. C., where he has been taking special training in engineering. At Camp Greene he will have charge of the organization and training of engineering units to be formed here. Captain Knapp accompanies Colonel Brand.

Colonel Boice will have command of the 817th pioneer infantry of colored troops to be organized at Camp Greene.

Captain Knapp has been in France for some months and will bring with him valuable experience in military work on the fighting front.

PROVIDE BATHS.

Hot shower baths have been provided by the War-Camp Community Service for the comfort of enlisted men who frequent the Soldiers' Club, 516 South Tryon street. There are sixteen showers at the club, which were much enjoyed by the men during the summer months, but the heating arrangements not having been perfected until the past week, their use was for a time discontinued. Arrangements are also being made to heat the dancing pavilion.

TO APPEAR LATER.

The visit of Irvin S. Cobb, famous humorist and war correspondent, who was to have appeared at the City Auditorium on the evening of November 13, has been postponed because of the conflict with dates for the united war work campaign. Mr. Cobb had been engaged for a lecture here by the Charlotte War-Camp Community Service, and will appear under their auspices later this season. Although postponement of Mr. Cobb's appearance here was unavoidable, it is a distinct disappointment to the people of Charlotte and the men in uniform. The announcement of his coming in the far future is eagerly anticipated and will be heralded with universal pleasure.

"Home from home" is Mrs. Baldwin's intention and it was with feelings akin to leaving a real home that we bade her good-night and stepped into the chilly November evening to seek our rest for the morrow's tasks.

Lieutenant-Colonel Renn, who approved the original plans for the Red Cross building has lent every aid to its organization since that time. He has offered many valuable suggestions to those in charge and states that he will give every assistance to promoting its home-like properties.