

SUNSHINE LETTERS

SHOW ABLE EFFORTS OF THE MEDICS.

(Special to The Caduceus.)

Washington, Nov. 21.—Concrete evidence reaches the Office of the Surgeon General every day in the form of "Sunshine Letters," proving that the Army Medical Department has captured the confidence and trust not only of the men in the camps here and overseas, but of the civilian population as well.

A medical officer with a happy faculty of coining phrases hit upon the term "Sunshine Letter" to describe communications to the Surgeon General and the commanding officers of army hospitals, from gratified parents whose boys were under treatment.

"Sunshine Letters" make good reading. They come from no particular class or locality. Sometimes they are written on fine linen stationery, but often on the grayish white sort with blue ruled lines that you buy for a penny a sheet at the corner store. They are not always happy letters, for on occasion the writer is a saddened mother or father whose John, or Joe, or Ben has "gone West" as a result of sickness or injuries. But they are all letters from which radiates a spirit of trust and gratitude.

An account of the Army Medical Department, when it comes to be written after this war, will show an ascending arc of confidence both in and out of the military establishment. This is all the more remarkable when it is taken into consideration with what rapidity the department was expanded from a few thousand officers to thirty-eight thousand on active service today, and from a scattered enlisted personnel to more than two hundred thousand; and also when it is remembered that a physician, no matter how learned, can be converted into a medical officer, only after considerable training and frequently a decided readjustment of methods. From the very first, however, the department had the advantage of working with a specimen of the finest and keener human material in the world—the American doctor.

Follows a "Sunshine Letter" from an old colored man, Ned Satterfield, tending to prove that neither race nor color, creed nor prejudice, stand as

a barrier to the Army Medical Department:

"Berea, N. C., Oct. 29, 1918.

"U. S. Army Base Hospital,
"Camp Greene, N. C.

"Dear Sir:

"I am writing to express my gratitude to you all for the hospitality and kindness which I received at your hospital while visiting my son which is sick in your hospital, also I want to express my gratitude for your kindness and tender care in which you are turning towards my sick son that is in your care. I am satisfied from what my eyes have seen that he hasn't suffered for anything, also I am frank to say that he is receiving better care at your hands than I would be able to give him at home. Again thanking you for your kind treatment and warm welcome which made me feel at home the time I was at his sick bed. Please write me at once and inform me how he is getting on, I wait your early reply.

"I beg to remain your friend,

"Ned Satterfield."

Here is another "Sunshine Letter." It shows how the one time popular misconception, that at Army hospitals, the patient was not given the very best of care and attention which Medical science affords, has been controverted by the knowledge that the care there in the majority of instances it away and above that which could have been afforded a soldier at his own home. The letter follows in part:

"It is with more gratitude than I can express that I write you this letter. I want you to know how much I appreciate the skillful medical attention and careful nursing given my son at the Base Hospital at Camp Meade. My son had pneumonia and was dangerously ill; so ill, that I believe if it had not been for the very intelligent medical treatment and the tireless nursing which he received, that he would not have recovered.

"I visited the hospital daily for one week and I had ample opportunity to observe everything that was going on. At the end of the week I came away with the firm belief that the lads in the hospital under your command were receiving better medical treatment and better nursing than most of them would receive in civil life. Each lad, regardless of his color and regardless of his station in life, receives the same care and attention,

and that care and attention is much better than that to be found in many city hospitals.

"With heartfelt gratitude to yourself and to the officers on the staff and nurses who contributed towards my boy's recovery and who gave so much kindness and sympathy to me, I beg to remain,

"Yours very sincerely,

"Chas. W. Bonner,

"Blythe & Bonner, Foreign Exchange,
"New York, March 19, 1918."

The Surgeon General himself not long ago received a "Sunshine Letter" from a Rochester man, W. M. Brown, who was called to the sick bed of his soldier son at the Base Hospital, at Camp Zachary Taylor. This letter speaks for itself. There follows parts of it:

"I have recently had the opportunity an adthe honor to spend a week in the Base Hospital at Camp Zachary Taylor where I was called to the bedside of my son. While I was there I was invited by Col. Pyles to assist in the emergency which I was very glad to do.

"At this time I wish to convey to you my very deep appreciation of the kindness and courtesy that was shown me in my personal matters, and I also wish to express my unbounded admiration for the efficiency and humanity that I observed on the part of every one connected with the hospital."

MORE OFFICERS.

The following second lieutenants arrived at Camp Greene from Camp Gordon, last Saturday and have reported at camp headquarters for duty:

William Pearson, H. A. Flagge, Guy T. Reid, C. F. Fulton, August Mewes, R. M. Dunwoody, Werner W. Moore, J. B. Weidner, C. A. Wilson, J. V. Hueit, R. L. Brinkley, Atlas Schlenz, Theo. E. Irmischer, J. S. Street, R. J. Kifer, Richard Parnell, W. H. Klein, H. T. Jones, R. W. Younger, C. P. Bishop, William Smith, C. M. Sutton, E. B. Baxter, R. W. Lewis, C. R. Lane, J. N. Hearn, C. A. Lovelett, C. V. Nichols, G. H. MacDowell, C. R. Shorp, Clarence Castle, J. E. Whately, C. M. Steikell, L. J. Zellner, A. A. McNeill, C. M. Uphorse, D. J. Ferguson, Lawrence Charrots, W. L. Love, C. D. Mack, H. S. Howard, C. F. Darr, E. T. Morris.

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