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403.2.21

Acting under instructions conveyed to me by the O.C. First Australian General Hospital, I made an inspection of the Isolation Camp, and spent part of the afternoon of the 6th, and the whole of the night in camp; inspected the morning routine, and left at 10.30 a.m. on the 7th. I returned again on that evening.

I saw Major Jackson at the camp on the morning of the 7th. He expressed his inability owing to pressure of work to go around the camp with me, but agreed to furnish in writing an account of his difficulties.

I have further seen a report furnished to the O.C. First Australian General Hospital by Captain Treves who was requested to make an inspection of the camp during the past week. I discussed the matter fully with Captain Treves.

The Camp itself is well laid out, on two sides of a road, with approximately 33 tents on one side, and 21 tents on the other. It is roughly divided into a Venereal and an Infectious Diseases section.

The latrines are properly constructed and placed at reasonable distances from the lines, and water is supplied at the camp entrance.

The cooking arrangements are fairly satisfactory, but could be very much improved by copying those of the 4th Field Ambulance which is at the outside 200 or 300 yards away from the cookhouse of the camp.

The worst feature of the camp are the latrine arrangements. No attempt is apparently made to keep the kerosene tins or the seats, or the walls, thoroughly clean. This is partly owing to the fact that there is no water in the vicinity, and there is no water cart in the camp.

There is a good deal of untidiness, refuse of different kinds lying about which is due I think to the lack of proper receptacles into which rubbish can be thrown.

6

The arrangements for clinical work are fair. The fundamental changes which require to be made are (a) The erection of a bell tent for dispensing purposes, so as to separate the dispensing from the dressing room, and (b) the conveyance of a water supply to the immediate vicinity of the operating and dressing tents.

Sqn

The clinical work of the camp is effected primarily by three medical officers of the First Australian General Hospital, Major Jackson, Officer in Command, Captain Kay, and Captain Foxton. These officers arrive at the camp daily at about 9.30 a.m. return at 12.30 to lunch; go back to camp at 3.30 and finish the days work between 4.30 and 5. In the middle of the day therefore, and from 5 in the afternoon until 9.30 the next morning, there is no commissioned officer in the camp.

P.A. Eqo 24/7/14

Under their direction are a Sgt Major, 1 Corporal,

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and 2 Cooks, supplied by the N.Z. and Australian Division; and the following officers supplied by the First Australian General Hospital from its own staff:- A staff sergeant, two corporals, and eight privates, of whom 4 are medical students. A ninth private is at present sick in hospital, as is also a bugler supplied by the Division.

8 The noncommissioned officers and the medical students seem to me to be in earnest to a degree about their work, and to be for the most part overworked. I personally went fully into requirements with them, and asked them to submit their viewsto Major Jackson, and if he approved to ask him to forward them to me. This he has done.

9 Many of the difficulties of the officer in charge of the camp arise from the delay in the execution of requisitions, and the delay in the execution of requisitions arises in part from the fact that they have not been forwarded (at all events recently) to the O.C. First Australian General Hospital. They are forwarded sometimes to the Quartermaster, sometimes to the dispenser, and apparently sometimes to other quarters. It is consequently becoming increasingly difficult to know what has or has not been supplied. For example, a requisition to the quartermaster dated 4th March includes rubber gloves, a sterilising dish, a horse hair jar, a dozen syringes, and dressing scissors, which the quartermaster is not likely to have in his department.

10 The work of the camp is of vast importance from every point of view. There are about 350 venereal cases and 100 infectious cases. The fact that 450 men out of a total of little more than 10,000 are in the camp, renders the consideration of their welfare important to a degree. It further offers an almost unique opportunity of obtaining scientific and practical knowledge respecting the mode of prevention and control of these diseases. The men in the camp suffering from venereal diseases are deprived of pay, they know they are in disgrace, and many of them are sullen and in an attitude of almost aggressive insurgence. Some of them would I believe respond to sympathetic treatment, and efforts could be made to arouse in them some human interest. Those who are positively objectionable should in my judgment be punished with severity. I do not think many punishments would be necessary.

11 Most of the deficiencies in the camp in the way of material equipment can be supplied at moderate expense, and the judicious use of labor, and by copying the excellent arrangements in the 4th Field Ambulance which adjoins the camp.

12 The camp while faulty in the respects above indicated is on the whole sound, and can with a moderate expenditure and a little attention be made excellent. It means the adoption in my judgment of the suggestions now set out.

13 In order to regularise the business procedure all communications to superior officers, whether verbal or written, and all requisitions, should be made through

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the O.C. First Australian General Hospital.

14 The Camp should never be without a commissioned officer. It is just a question whether all three officers should not reside in the camp and take leave in rotation when the day's work is over, but whatever arrangement is made one orderly officer should be always available. If the latter arrangement is adopted and only one officer stays after hours, Colonel Beeston the commander of the 4th Field Ambulance has expressed his willingness to allow this officer to join their mess, which is within two or three hundred yards of the camp, so that no difficulty about suitable messing need arise. If of course the three officers remain in the camp, they may have their own mess in their own way.

To me this recommendation is essential to the proper conduct of the camp. At present the medical officers do their work properly, but at the end of the day the camp is handed over entirely to non commissioned officers who want guidance.

15 Additional non commissioned staff is wanted, and application has already been sent to the D.A.A.G. N.Z. Headquarters for 3 extra non commissioned officers to assist the Sgt Major. This is in my judgment essential to the proper discipline of the camp. Among other duties which can be undertaken by the non commissioned officers are the superintendence of sanitary and stretcher squads. Other uses can be made of convalescent patients provided non commissioned officers are available.

16 To assist in the medical portion of the work 3 additional nursing orderlies are requisite. If the camp remains of its present size these additional non commissioned officers and privates are all that should be required to do the work excellently.

A number of requisitions of Major Jackson, and some additional requirements which he has not suggested, are set out in the schedule attached, and should be attended to forthwith.

18 The discipline of the camp might well be improved by an attempt to enter into sympathetic relationship with the patients. Short addresses might be given at night by the medical officers, including not only those of the camp, but those who volunteer from the staff of the 1st Australian General Hospital. Something might be done in the way of improving discipline by establishing personal relationship of the kind, and I am sure volunteers would be forthcoming from the staff.

It is most desirable that the vexed question of the relationship of soft sores to syphilis be settled, and the camp offers unique opportunities of doing the work. If 100 cases of sores were taken and a wasserman test made, information of the most valuable character from a military, scientific, and practical point of view would be obtained, and I would recommend that the Egyptian Public Health Department be asked to undertake this work.

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Failing this method, Captain Watson of the 1st A.G.H. should be requested to do it. Captain Wat on is already occupied with the pathological work of the hospital, and for that reason I have suggested asking the Egyptian Public Health Department. But if that suggestion proves to be impracticable, then even at the cost of some interference with his ordinary work, I think Captain Watson should be instructed to make the determination.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That all communications written or verbal from the officer commanding the camp to superior officers, together with all requisitions for material or drugs, be sent through the O.C. First Australian General Hospital, of which the Isolation Camp is a part.

2. That at all times a commissioned officer should be present in camp, i.e. an orderly officer on duty.

3. That three non commissioned officers should be appointed to help in the general work of the camp, and three additional nursing orderlies.

If these recommendations are complied with, the drug and equipment problem is in my judgment quite subsidiary, and any difficulties in that direction will speedily adjust themselves.

It is however desirable that the officer in charge be instructed to send in all requirements for a fortnight in advance - in other words that requisitions for drugs and materials should be made in a methodical way and on a definite plan.

On the other hand if the very extensive list of requisitions be supplied and even if the extra non commi sioned officers and privates are supplied I do not think the camp will ever be satisfactory until commissioned officers are resident in it.

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SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENTS.

That a small bell tent be erected to act as a dispensary in the vicinity of the dressing room, and that shelving be fitted up by the hospital carpenter.

That the water supply be extended to the operating and dressing room.

That a water cart be provided for the camp.

That instructions be given to the Egyptian Sanitary Brigade to thoroughly clean the latrine tins in the various latrines. At present this is not done although I am informed it is done in every other camp at Heliopolis.

A boiler with some hot water available should be provided in the vicinity of the latrines for the purpose of sterilising brushes and completing the cleansing.

The following stationery should be supplied:- Envelopes O.H.M.S. 2 boxes large, 2 boxes small; F'cap ruled 3 quires; Note Books or pocket rolls 50; Ink 1 bottle blue, 1 bottle red; Pencils Red, Blue, Lead, and Copying, 2 each; Pens 6; Nibs assorted 1 box; Ink Erasers 3; Paper Fasteners 1 box; Office Glue ½ doz bottles; Morning Sick States 100; Hospital Transfer forms 100; Index Book 1; Scribbling pads 50; Blotting paper 100 sheets; Inkwells 6; Office rule 1; quantity of memo forms; 1pass book with butt for recording leave granted staff.

Cooking arrangements. 400 bricks are asked for the purpose of erecting a cooks galley, but at the cooking galley of the 4th Field Ambulance the work is done by using only a few bricks, and by a different placing of the iron rods, and I do not see why the very excellent arrangements of that ambulance should not be copied. If of course bricks are obtainable well and good. If not 60 bricks will be all that is required. The cook sleeps in the kitchen in which the meat is hung because he is afraid people will steal the meat. A wire door and a lock at the front would obviate the necessity of the present insanitary arrangements.

500 feet of rope are required to enclose in the kitchen and woodheap.

35 feet of fencing wire are required for the latrine and urine tin handles.

45 latrine tins are required and are in the course of supply.

3 beer barrels are required for catching the waste water under the taps.

1 doz scrubbing brushes are required for cleaning mess tables and latrine seats.

1 doz rakes for cleaning the lines.

1 claw hammer for use in store.

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In addition to these Major Jackson has asked for 6 kidney dishes which I am afraid are not obtainable in Cairo.

There is also the following requisition for instruments, drugs, etc.

1 stone for sharpening scalpels
✓ 4 yards protective tissue
✓ 5 lbs Mag Sulph
✓ 2 qrts Lysol
✓ 1 lb Pot Cit
✓ ½ lb Phenacatin
✓ 1 lb Pot Permang
✓ 1 lb Sulph Sublimate
✓ 2 lbs Vin Ipecac
✓ 1 lb Pot Chlor
✓ 2 lbs Soda Bism
✓ 2 lbs Prepared Chalk
✓ 3 lbs Chloroform
✓ 10 pkts double Cyanide Gauze
✓ 2 irrigators with tube and nozzle
✓ Morph Sulph Tabloid 4 tubes gr ¼
✓ Cocaine and syringe 5 tubes ½ gr each cocaine hydrochlor
✓ 6 urineheaters qt bottles
✓ Litmus paper
✓ 4 lb Tinct Iodine
✓ 10 pints Hydrogen Peroxide
✓ 1 lb Mag Carb
✓ Pulv Trangucanth 1 lb
Pyopi
✓ 50 lb wool
✓ Tinct Lavandulai 1 lb
✓ Pyvet Spub 1 gallon
✓ Pulv Jalap 4 oz
✓ Lint 20 lb
✓ Bism Submit 1 lb
1 instrument tray
4 prs rubber gloves (size 8)
1 waterproof apron
Dish for sterilising
1 horse hair jar
Cat gut fine
1 razor, strop, and hone
3 scalpel dishes with lids
5 doz syringes
2 pr dressing scissors
1 pr sharp pointed surgical scissors
4 prs dressing forceps
½ doz small probes
1 20 oz measure glass
✓ 1 doz stock jars (for ointments etc)
1 spatula
1 curette (small)
Urine heating apparatus
✓ 2 Inufflators
2 primus stoves
1 blue flame stove (large) or other stove suitable for sterilising dressings, bowls, etc
1 boiler for the above to hold dressing trays etc
3 prs tenaculum forceps
1 pr blunt pointed surgical scissors (for circumcising)

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