

CLEVELAND LEADER

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MORNING LEADER

SATURDAY MORNING, OCT. 3, '63

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UNION STATE TICKET

For Governor—JOHN H. INGERSOLL, Cuyahoga County

SOLDIERS' AID SOCIETY

30 BANK STREET, CLEVELAND, OCTOBER 3, 1863

We present this week to our friends a brief statement of the operations of our Depot Hospital from its establishment to the present date, and desire to add a few words concerning the organization and uses of this and similar institutions.

A certain amount of suffering must necessarily exist in transferring convalescent, furloughed or discharged soldiers from point to point, did not long escape the attention of the Sanitary Commission.

The aim of that organization has been to remedy evils by recourse to the proper authorities and through regular channels where it can be done. But where this is impossible, to itself supply deficiencies and meet obstacles—armed with the strength of true and disinterested devotion to the best interests of the soldier—a key which has unlocked many a fast closed door. In the instance now under consideration it was soon discovered that an agency outside of the Government must be employed to secure to the soldier the care and attention necessary to his wants in the course of the various transportation incidental to the service. Food, shelter and comfortable lodgings, are as essential to the convalescent or disabled soldier as to the inmate of a hospital. This, their services claim, and the inherent justice in every heart demands that they shall receive it. The Sanitary Commission, as the exponent of this sentiment of the people, has established in various cities, both in the eastern and western Departments, what are called Soldiers' Homes, and which have proved to be, as their name signifies, a home to every homeless soldier who might pass their doors. The reception of this shelter is in a nowise to be regarded in the light of an accepted charity; but rather as the rightful due of all whose names are enrolled in the country's service. To every soldier such an establishment may be considered a home where weary feet may rest, tired eyes close, and the perils of the way be forgotten. Where it is possible to accomplish in these institutions have relied upon patriotic citizens of each town for their support. Where this was refused, the Sanitary Commission has assumed the care, but in every case, they should look to home supplies to sustain them. Every large city of the West on now boast such a place of refuge. The history of our own efforts in this direction and the plans for further action now forced upon us, shall be stated.

In April, 1862, the necessity of providing a shelter for the disabled soldiers, then pouring in from the hospitals of Tennessee and from the battle field of Shiloh—was suggested to us, and by the liberality of the Lake Shore Railroad Company a room in the Union Depot was assigned to us for that purpose. This room was soon furnished by different kind friends—a faithful nurse engaged to attend it and an arrangement entered into with the generous proprietors of the Dining Halls by which comfortable meals are supplied to the soldiers at a considerable discount on the ordinary rates.

In this little home, christened by our Depot Hospital, have been entertained from April 17, 1862, to October 1st, 1863, a period of eighteen months, over two hundred men, as will be seen from the subjoined tables:

NO. OF SOLDIERS ENTERED AT DEPOT HOSPITAL.

1862

Jan. 20 812

Feb. 1 290

March 1 316

April 1 372

May 1 372

June 1 372

July 1 372

August 1 372

September 1 372

October 1 372

November 1 372

December 1 372

Total 4,000

NO. OF SOLDIERS ENTERED AT THE DEPOT HOSPITAL.

1863

Jan. 1 372

Feb. 1 372

March 1 372

April 1 372

May 1 372

June 1 372

July 1 372

August 1 372

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Wheeler & Russell, proprietors of the Dining Hall, and George Vosburgh, in charge of hospital, have won for themselves the gratitude and confidence of the Society by their valuable services.

Hitherto our present accommodations have sufficed for the wants of the occupants, but for the last month the increase in the number requiring assistance has compelled us to devise more extended means for their relief. Since the opening of the lower Mississippi the eastern troops employed in the extreme Southern Department have been returned by this route and not, as formerly, by water via New Orleans and New York. There is no probability that this number will be diminished, and were the otherwise there would still be claimants enough for the services of an enlarged Soldiers' Home to warrant its erection.

The war, were it to close to-day, would return to our care a vast number of men whose sufferings would compel them to rely upon us for help and the nearer we draw to the end of the struggle, the more evident will its sad results become, and the greater effort must be put forth to meet and repair them.

We propose, therefore, to our citizens the erection of a Soldiers' Home in this city, on the model of those in Louisville, Nashville, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis. The ground for this purpose has been generously offered us by the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Railroad Company. It is unsurpassed for the use designed, communicating as it does with the depot and accessible from this, saving the transportation of sick men up the hill to the city. For the cost of the building and the means to support it we must look to the friends who have already sustained us in our work. We most earnestly recommend the plan, and when the time for actual contributions shall arrive, we trust to find it has been favorably received and accepted by all who bear its details. It seems almost a insult to the humanity of our citizens to press so obvious a duty.

It will surely be a pure and exalted privilege to minister to those who have done so great things for us. But we, to whom experience has shown so clearly the pressing necessity of the case and to whom the story daily is brought home with all the force of actual suffering, can not refrain from asking your kindly and prompt acquiescence in the scheme.

To all whose hearts can be reached by this appeal we commend the subject.

SOLDIERS' AID SOCIETY.

MARIED.

In Church Falls, September 20th, by S. E. W. KILGORE, M. D., MARY HILL and Miss ABBY WOOD, both of Cleveland.

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