WITH THE RAMBLER
In Odd Nooks And Crannies About The City

WITH "THE RAMBLER" In Odd Nooks and Crannies About the City.

LANDMARKS have a hard time at the National Capital as in all other American cities, but there are some in the environs of Washington that hold on quite well. The rule is that about the time a landmark becomes identified with an American landscape progress comes along in the guise of a steam shovel or some other device for making over things and the landscape changes.

On the Washington side of the Eastern branch a few hundred yards southwest of Bladensburg is a mill that was turning out grist long before steam engines began to hum. Its grist became part of the blood and bone of early Americans. If some old men who live not far from the mill are right its meal and flour—principally meal—gave stamina to many of the men who carried flintlocks for the young republic.

The mill stands on the battlefield of Bladensburg, where the American militia, under regular leadership and conjointly with the American regulars engaged, gave up the fight for the capital of the nation to the British invaders. American sharpshooters used this mill as cover, and some of the English received their death wounds from muskets fired there.

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Around the mill is a weedy jungle—cockleburrs, giant ragweed, noxious jimson, the inevitable golden-rod and smartweed which insists on tangling up any field where the plow is idle. Growing above this wilderness of weeds are tall willows that sway in every little wind, black walnut, the thorny honey-locust and the fetid alanthus. Some of these trees are old and seedy. The miller's house nearby is tenanted by city-bred folk. Old mulberry trees, lilac bushes and fragrant box, aristocrats of the gardens of other times, are growing among brand-new shrubs and plants that sprout, blossom and perish in a season.

The reputed longest resident, if not the oldest inhabitant, of Bladensburg is Andrew Lynch, who keeps store on the Baltimore road. He remembers the mill seventy-five years ago, and the man who owned and operated it then was Duck Penn, if The Star man got the name right while talking to Mr. Lynch on his store porch on a hot and dusty day not long ago.

"Duck Penn owned the place when I was a boy seventy-five years ago," said Mr. Lynch. "It was an old mill then. There were two mills in town, the Calvert mill over that way" (pointing east) "and Duck Penn's mill. The place over there where the steam railroad crosses the old Georgetown road, that runs past the mill, they called Penns Crossing. No, I don't know that he was a Quaker and I don't know whether he has any kin living around here, but I believe that the Marburys down in Prince Georges county are kin to him. He did not always run the mill himself, but rented it out to others to run. I can't remember the names of those that ran it for him. Calvert's mill used to turn out wheat flour, and Penn's was famous for its cornmeal.

"No, this place is not lively now. A good many automobiles go through and help to tear up this road, but four Washington-Baltimore stage coaches, two each way, used to run through here every day, making the trip from Washington to Baltimore in four hours. They changed horses every little while—every hour, I think. That big lot next door with all those weeds in it was where the main hotel stood. Why, there used to be six or seven wholesale stores here, and three tailor shops."

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An elderly man by the name of Caxon, who now lives on the mill property, or did a few weeks ago, recalls that the Penn mill later became the Carlton mill, and still later Moyer's mill. Moyer died a quarter of a century ago, and the property is owned by his descendants. Mr. Caxon said the mill was in operation off and on from civil war times down to about fifteen years ago.

This old mill figures in American history. Lossing, the historian, writing of the battle of Bladensburg, says that after the news that Maj. Peter had been forced to retire before the British, between Marlborough and Woodyard, "Winder immediately sent orders to Stansbury, with his Baltimore volunteers, now moving forward, to fall back toward Bladensburg, take the best position possible with his own and Sterrett's troops in front of that village and resist the enemy if attacked." If driven, he was to retreat toward the capital. "Stansbury's force took position in an orchard near a mill standing near Bladensburg, on a gentle eminence, and there behind a slight breastwork he placed six heavy guns in position to command the pass into the town and the bridge southwestward of it. About a hundred yards in the rear of this position, in the small dwelling on Tourncliffe's farm, the surgeons of the command were placed to receive and take care of the wounded soldiers."

The mill referred to in this account is the ancient mill that stands today a little to the left of the main road from Washington to Bladensburg.

* * *

Forgotten Burial Plot.

A LONG-FORGOTTEN burial plot and the foundation of an old house have been unearthed on the rifle range of the National Guard of the District of Columbia. What was a mystery at the time of the discovery has been cleared away by inquiry.

The rifle range occupies a green and picturesque tract in the valley of Oxon run and on the opposing ridges. The range may be reached from Washington in various ways, but that most used is to leave the electric cars at Congress Heights at a lane which the conductor will indicate and which runs cross lots along the southwest edge of a big farm belonging to the Government Hospital for the Insane through land once covered by the National race course to the point where this lane debouches into Hamilton road, now laid down on the District maps as Alabama avenue.

Leaving the electric car, one soon catches a view of the flag that floats above the range, and, if the season be spring or summer, one will hear the smart crack of the new Springfields and the ripping flight of the shot from gun to target or thereabouts. A walk of a mile, which carries one past the Hebrew cemetery, brings you to a stretch of level land, grassy but for numerous paths and trails worn there. An earthen parapet and a telephone box and pole are conspicuous here. They mark the 1,000-yard firing station. To the southeast one will see in spring and summer a double line of conical tents and a line of wall tents with flies. Off to the southward, silhouetted against the foliage of a deeply wooded ridge, one sees a line of targets—the 1,000-yard targets.

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Entering upon the level tract till the valley is revealed, the 800, 600, 500, 300 and 200 yard targets are brought into view. Perhaps troops are firing, windpennants drooping, flapping or flying, and black, red and sometimes white discs, or a black and white cross are being raised against the targets to indicate the value of shots. Perhaps, also, red flags are being waved from within the butts, announcing "misses." A road of gravel and clay twists down a steep grade through a ravine that cuts through the plateau of the valley. This road leads to the offices of the superintendent of the range, several small frame buildings and to various firing stations. The bed of the valley is nearly flat, but there are somefolds in the land. Through the middle, northeast to southwest, flows Oxon run, through steep banks that the historic stream has cut. Beyond rises a ridge, thick grown with timber, into which tons of bullets have been deep buried.

As the road winds down into the valley one sees on the right hand two places where the earth has been scraped from the hillside and a terrace thrown outward, forming a level space. The first of these places is the 800-yard firing station, and the second is the starting point of the skirmish runs. It was in the construction of this earth platform that Maj. Thomas S. King, superintendent of the range, with a gang of laborers uncovered part of the brick foundation of a house.

* * *

There stood the home of Philip Evans and later of Thomas Jenkins of Thomas, men who owned large tracts of land in the Congress Heights region and to whom belonged the land on which District Guardsmen work with rifles and revolvers. When the civil war broke out this house was owned and occupied by Thomas Jenkins of Thomas, "of Thomas" being added to distinguish him from Thomas Jenkins, a kinsman, who also owned land and lived in that neighborhood. Jenkins of Thomas lived there with his family. One of his daughters, Mrs. Annie Hoyle, is living on a part of the Jenkins estate about three-quarters of a mile west of the rifle range. The old Jenkins house stood under the lea of the northward ridge and faced east. It was one of the large and fine homes of that neighborhood of planters. The west half of the rifle range was an apple orchard.

In 1861 the house was torn down by order of Col. McCarthy, commanding a New York infantry regiment, and its lumber was used in the construction of officers' quarters between Fort Snyder, which stood on the crest of the ridge near the entrance to the rifle range, and Forts Wagner and Baker, near Good Hope.

Before coming by purchase into possession of Jenkins, which was about 1845, the house and land had been long owned and occupied by Philip Evans, a very wealthy farmer. He was the builder of the house.

Not long ago Maj. King discovered on the high land on which the tents of troops are pitched an old burial ground. Many broken bits of gravestones were found. This was the burial plot of the Evans family. At the time of the civil war this plot was fenced in and among the tall, dark cedars growing there was a marble monument over the grave of Philip Evans. Other graves were covered with flat stones. The story in the neighborhood today is that Evans was many descendants living in Washington and its vicinity. One of Evans' daughters, Rebecca, was married to James Sears, an Alexandria merchant.

When the war closed the Evans monument and the flat gravestones had been broken into fragments and today bits of the marble still may be found in the bare soil which covers these old graves.

* * *

A Real Playground.

WALK north along 7th street to W and then turn east. You are in a narrow little street. A close-built row of small and shabby brick houses, whose doorsteps open directly upon a rough, narrow and babe-thronged pavement, is on the left hand. On the right hand one sees stacks of lumber, a glimpse of the base ball grandstand and a view of the broken down and decaying wooden buildings not long ago occupied as the Freedmen's Hospital. Arriving at 6th street the scene changes. On the left stretches northward and eastward a grove of big old stalwart oaks, white oaks. It is one of the finest groves of these trees in Washington or the environs. Nearly a hundred of the trees are growing there. Two squares to the east, for the urban forest extends from 6th to 4th street, is the Lucretia Mott School—red brick, with sandstone facings and a multiplicity of windows glazed with small square panes. North, beyond Bryant street, on rising ground, are the new low long buildings of Freedmen's Hospital and farther north on the ridge are the buildings of Howard University.

Under the oaks large patches of the turf have been worn away by skipping, scampering feet, revealing bare, hard-beaten yellow clay. Still, patches of turf, a little sear just now, survive. In this grove are two tennis courts, a basket ball court, base ball diamond, tether ball, giant stride, traveling rings and a merry-go-round. Hundreds of colored children are playing there. A tremendous sum of energy is being put into the several games. There is no undue boisterousness and absolutely no hooliganism. It is supervised play. William Washington, the supervisor, is playing with a large group of boys; his assistant, a young woman, M. E. I. Price, is playing with a crowd of girls. On a clement afternoon when the nearby schools have been dismissed, go to this place and view the scene if you lack faith in the public playground idea, or if your faith stands in need of stimulation.

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A very large proportion of the children gamboling there are poor in all but spirit and perhaps hope. Anyhow, most of their parents are very poor people. If not for that playground nearly all these children would be idling or only half exercising in the squalid alleys or traffic-burdened streets. They would probably be absorbing vicious ideas and forming vicious habits. Here they are improving their own chances for a healthy and orderly life, and their gain is the gain of the community.

The young woman in charge told The Star man that after school hours the children often have folk dances and ring dances. Industrial training is also carried on under those great oaks, basket making and such light work, the Playgrounds Association furnishing the raw materials.

The place among the oaks is the Northwest municipal playground—the largest for colored children in the District of Columbia.

* * *

"WASHINGTON florists make a greater window show of flowers than any other florists on earth," said a dealer in blooms and plants as he paused in his work of making up happy garlands for weddings and sad wreaths for funerals. "That proves to me that Washington rentals are not so high, after all. Take that flower store over there, for example," pointing to a line of broad, deep windows, brilliantly lighted with late summer and early autumn blossoms. "That florist uses more window space than any florist in any other American city. Now, having the biggest flower windows in the land, it is a natural sequence that we in Washington have the best window displays. It is the custom here to show flowers in the windows, and naturally we have to put the choicest flowers on exhibition.

"The display draws trade and the taste with which hte window is dressed is one of our strong advertisements. It is accepted by flower patrons, who are a discriminating class, as an index to our ability. To show poor taste in the window, so far from attracting trade drives it to another shop. We put the finest flowers in the windows and expend headfuls of thought on their arrangement. It is our bait. In many other cities the most important florists have a small shop window with a fern or a palm as a trade sign and with the sale flowers in the storeroom. This window rivalry is keen here, hence you see landscapes, marine views, forest, garden and pastoral scenes wrought in the florists' windows, with goldfish, canoes and the most costly orchids, the rarest roses and the daintiest violets all worked into the picture scheme.

"Washington is an important flower market. Everybody here buys flowers. Take the telephone book or the directory and you will be surprised at the length of the list of florists. I can call off the names of about thirty-five important and flourishing flower dealers without half trying. We have a florists' club here, but that is purely a social organization, and we have a florists' exchange. Growers are stockholders in that concern, and it is a great aid in the wholesale distribution of flowers.

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"Florists' supply drummers tell me that we have the finest flower stores in the country right here in old Washington, and these men travel from end to end of this star-spangled land."

"What, you have drummers in your line of goods?"

"Heavens, yes, lots of 'em. The supply houses in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and in numerous other cities are big affairs. They handle immortelles—nearly all of which are imported, and, by the way, most of them come from Germany labeled "immortelen." No, they are not artificial flowers, but the genuine article. Naturally their color is a lemon yellow, but some are bleached white and others are dyed red, blue, purple and green. The cape flower, which comes in all colors, is also imported in large quantities. We call these 'foundation flowers,' using them mainly for background work. These drummers for florists' supply houses handle autumn leaves and grasses chemically treated; ribbons, papers, baskets, in odd shapes; floral designs in wire, sheafs of wheat for funerals, wire for wiring the stems of flowers, moss, birch bark, cork bark, cherry and cedar bark for window and window box trimming and many readymade articles in barks. Those leaves and grape bunches you see in some saloon windows and in summer gardens are handled by florists' supply houses.

"But to come back to where we started, Washington has the finest florists' show windows and the most artistic flower stores in the United States."

NATIONAL GUARD of the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WITH one month of the winter soldiering gone the National Guard of the District of Columbia is considerably farther advanced toward its next annual encampment than it was one year ago. The reason for this is the remarkably fine progress made in the past year, the practical work done in camp, the businesslike methods adopted in the handling of property and the evident determination of men and officers to bring themselves to the one-hundred-per-cent standard and stick there.

Just what the effect of reduced instruction will be is hard to predict. Without an inspector-instructor and with a reduction in the ranks of instructor sergeants there will surely be a slump in the brigade if the vacancies are allowed to exist long enough. Of course, the companies under their own officers will be able to advance under their own momentum up to a certain point. After that point is reached instructors from the army become a necessity.

Col. Ourand is congratulating his regiment, the 1st Infantry, N. G. D. C., on the work done so far this year, in a letter addressed to the entire organization, reading as follows:

"The regiment is to be complimented upon the splendid record made at Camp Ordway in August. The attendance was the largest that the command has ever had in a camp of instruction, being 82 per cent of the enrolled strength. There were 37 officers and 531 enlisted men present. The discipline and attention to sanitary regulations have never been excelled in the history of the guard.

"The success of the course of instruction was remarkable and the progress made by the many recruits was most favorably commented upon by the army inspector-instructors. It was apparent, though, to officers and men that regular attendance at drill in close order movements during the winter in the armory would have made the work in camp much easier and would have enabled the command to have devoted more time to the more advanced field work.

"It is urged upon every officer, noncommissioned officer and private in the command to be present at every drill possible during the present drill season so that every one will be thoroughly familiar with every part of the drill regulations that is possible to be learned in the armory. It is thorough work and prompt and implicit obedience to orders that will produce the necessary team work required to maintain the high standing achieved in camp and to make the command an efficient field force ready for any emergency.

"The fine record for the regiment in the Seagirt matches was largely due to the excellent work of Company K. Individual members of other companies aided in making the reputation for the year and are to be commended for their devotion to duty and for their sacrifice of time and energy. It is urged upon every company to take steps to become a "shooting" company, as the ability to "hit the mark" is the most valuable quality of a good soldier.

"Recruiting will be resumed at once so that the new members may receive the requisite instruction to enable them to take their places in the ranks as soon as possible. Every effort must be made in each company to recruit to the minimum strength with men who can and will attend drills and to eliminate those members who are a detriment to the command by their inattention to duty.

"As an aid in recruiting, members should familiarize themselves with the new circular relating to athletics in the guard so that the advantages to be gained by enlisting now in time to join the various classes in the gymnasium may be clearly shown. Members also are urged to take a more active part in this branch of instruction.

"Let every man in the regiment resolve to do everything in his power to make this year the most successful in the history of our regiment in every department of our activities."

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Once more has President Taft shown that he is strongly in favor of the National Guard and that he believes the militia pay bill should be passed. The President has stood by the organized militia all through his administration, has fought for it in more ways than one. He has made it easy, in the District of Columbia, for government employes to join a company; and his outspoken words in the armory of the 1st Battery, Field Artillery, N. G. D. C., left him in no uncertain position regarding his views on the citizen soldiery. In other words, President Taft, commander-in-chief of the army and navy, is going to stick by the organized militia.

His latest expression of opinion concerns the militia pay bill. Representative Pepper brought this bill to a state of perfection before the close of Congress and presented it to the House with a report which contained a mass of enlightening testimony and interesting figures.

This bill, of deep interest to national guardsmen all over the country, proposes an increase of more than $3,000,000 in the pay of national guardsmen by the federal government. At the present time the government pays out about $5,000,000 a year in training the National Guard. The proposed bill would increase this sum to more than $8,000,000, giving percentages of regular army pay to officers and men of the National Guard for training and attention to duty.

Under the bill the amount disbursed to the National Guard of the District of Columbia would be $135,000 the first year and to the Maryland National Guard $175,000.

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John W. Kirby of New York wrote to the President asking him for an expression of opinion on the militia pay bill, and the President replied as follows:

"I am very glad to comply with the request made in your letter of the 12th instant for an expression of my views on the militia pay bill. I am heartily in favor of legislation along the line of the bill now before Congress, for I believe it will result in greater efficiency of the organized militia as a national asset. I am advised that practically all differences between the War Department and the representatives of the National Guard with respect to the legislation have been satisfactorily adjusted. The proposed legislation appeals to me for the reasons set forth in the following memorandum prepared by the chief of the division of militia affairs of the War Department.

"'It will strengthen the organized militia of the country in their relation to the federal government. It will increase their efficiency in every respect, and will result in an improvement in training that will enable them to be more easily expanded in emergency to war strength. It will tend to reimburse officers and men for expenses necessarily entailed by membership in the militia, and it will enable the federal government to exact a higher degree of discipline on the part of organized militia and to insist on the proper supply and preservation of a uniform and equipment fitting them for the field at all times."

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K Company, 2d Infantry, plans to hold a supper at Freund's next Saturday. Capt. Earnest is managing the preliminary details. He expects that Col. Harvey will be on hand to say a few words to the boys.

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The brigade is still without an inspector or instructor, and the outlook is far from reassuring. The War Department is looking over the army list, trying to find a man who will be fitted for the position. Up to the present time no man with a sufficient detached service due him has been found eligible in other ways.

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By far the most brilliant social event in National Guard circles so far this season was the regimental assembly and dance given last Wednesday by the Officers' Association of the 2d Infantry to the entire regiment. Three hundred couples participated in the dance. The social program followed a dress parade of the regiment. Col. William E. Harvey expressed himself as thoroughly pleased with the showing made by the men. He said the parade was the best ever held by the regiment. The arrangements for the dance were managed by Lieut. Col. Anto Stephan.

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A general policing of the quarters of Company F, 2d Infantry, took place last Monday night, there being no drill held that evening. The housecleaning endeavor precedes the arrival of new furniture for the company quarters. Company F has the ambition to own the coziest quarters in the brigade and to have them open every night for the benefit of the men. Capt. Beckstein believes that by combining pleasant with military duty the men will benefit individually and the company will gain in spirit.

As Sergt Landvoigt says "Company F is not only going to be a company, but it is going to be some company and have some company room, with Mr. Rag Time Soldier Man in the lead." This reference to the soldier man is a hint that soon the strains of a piano may be heard coming from the room at any time.

Company F claims the second largest turnout at the regimental assembly and dress parade last Wednesday night.

Corp. J. P. Sayers has been promoted to the rank of sergeant, and Private G. Myers has been made a corporal. Private E. Wheeler has been designated to attend the school for field musicians.

THE ECONOMICAL HUSBAND —By MacGill

Revenue Cutter Service

On all vessels of the revenue cutter service on the Atlantic, the Pacific, the lakes and Gulf of Mexico, in Alaskan waters and aboard the Unalaga, on her way to the Suez canal, funeral honors were paid Vice President Sherman yesterday. The ensign and union jack were flown at half mast all day, and at noon a salute of nineteen guns was fired by each ship at intervals of a minute between each discharge.

Since July 1 of this year the cutter Acushnet, stationed at Woods Hole, Mass., has assisted sixteen vessels in distress and destroyed three derelicts or obstructions to navigation. This week Capt. Wiley, commanding the Acushnet, reported having gone in search of an obstruction said to be about four miles west-half-south of the Handkerchief shoal, Nantucket sound. The obstructions, which consisted of two big pieces of timber fastened together with wire rope, were located and were hauled up alongside the cutter and taken into harbor, where they would be out of the way. Each stick of timber was about forty feet long and would have seriously damaged a vessel striking it.

Capt. Wiley reports having floated the barge Badger, found ashore on Half Moon shoal, in Vineyard sound. The vessel was hard and fast on the shoal, but she waas successfully gotten into deep water and taken into harbor. While no report is made, it is understood that the steamer Bay View and the barge Britannia were floated at the same time and proceeded to Boston.

Floating the British schooner Mercedes, which was ashore in West Quoddy bay, Me., was a difficult task that the cutter Woodbury was called upon to perform in the past week. The vessel was ashore on Woodwards point, having been carried in a blow across shoal flats, and was high and dry. To get close enough to the stranded vessel to be able to get a line to her was the task that confronted First Lieut. Randolph Ridgely, jr., commanding the cutter, but with the aid of the lighthouse keeper as pilot this was done and the schooner was soon afloat and taken into deep water. The tug Dolphin carried the vessel into Lubec for such repair work as she may need.

The new cutter Miami, which came to this city about the middle of the past month to receive her battery of four six-pounder rapid-fire guns, arrived at Charleston yesterday on her way to her station at Key West. The Miami took an extra propeller from Newport News to the Charleston navy yard, where she will be docked and have it put on should she break the one with which she is now equipped. Charleston is the nearest point to her station at which she can be docked. The Miami will this week arrive at Key West and will at once take up her duties. Her cruising ground extends from the waters of southern Florida to Cape Canaveral, territory in which the fiercest of tropical hurricanes rage. The Miami is commanded by Capt. Aaron Gamble; First Lieut. Roger C. Weightman is executive officer; Second Lieut. Gordon C. Finley navigator, and Third Lieutenant of Engineers Alvin H. Bixby in charge of the engine room.

The cutter Morrell, which has been ordered from Detroit to the repair station of the service at Arundel Cove, Md., is expected to leave Detroit today or tomorrow on her long journey to the Chesapeake. The officers of the service scoff at the idea of her having any trouble with ice on the trip through the lakes and the St. Lawrence river and on the north Atlantic. The vessel should arrive at Arundel Cove in the latter part of this month.

In order to give the cutter Gresham a chance to be overhauled before the beginning of the winter cruising season next month, the cutter Itasca, now at Arundel Cove, is being made ready for service. The Gresham will go to Arundel Cove from Boston, and on her arrival there Capt. Winram will transfer his officers and men to the Itasca and will proceed to Boston for service. The work on the Gresham will be pushed so that she can return to service in the latter part of this month.

The cutter Manning, which is to receive a general overhauling at the Mare Island navy yard, has arrived at that point and has been placed out of commission. She will, it is stated, be out of service for several weeks.

In spite of the fact that the cutter Gresham cruised for nearly a week on the New England coast and was constantly in communication by radio-telegraphy with other steamships she could find no trace or obtain any tidings of the derelict lumber-laden schooner reported off Nantucket several days ago. Having made a thorough search for the derelict, the cutter returned to Boston to await further tidings of the whereabouts of the waterlogged vessel. What has become of her since she was sighted about ten days ago is something the officials of the revenue cutter service would like to know.

Leaves of absence were granted and orders issued to officers in the revenue cutter service in the past week as follows:

Third Lieut. C. E. Anstett, granted thirty days' leave, beginning November 1.

Engineer-in-Chief C. A. McAllister, granted five days' leave.

Third Lieut. C. F. Knisken, detacher Mohawk, to Winona.

First Lieutenant of Engineers M. N. Usina, detached Rush, to Mohawk.

Capt. K. W. Perry, thirty-five days' leave, beginning November 5.

First Lieut. H. G. Hamlet, sixty days' leave.

First Lieut. J. L. Maher, preparatory orders to Thetis.

Second Lieut. R. C. Weightman, preparatory orders to Acushnet.

Second Lieut. J. J. Hutson, perparatory orders to Androscoggin.

Second Lieut. J. P. Gray, preparatory orders to School of Instruction.

Second Lieut. M. J. Ryan, preparatory orders to Mohawk.

Third Lieut. W. P. Kain, preparatory orders to Yamacraw.

Third Lieut. F. J. Birkett, preparatory orders to Apache.

Second Lieut. L. L. Bennett, preparatory orders to Miami.

Second Lieutenant of Engineers F. E. Bagger, preparatory orders to Yamacraw.

Third Lieutenant of Engineers C. E. Susden, preparatory orders to Seminole.

Third Lieutenant of Engineers B. C. McFadden, preparatory orders to Onondaga.

Third Lieut. W. K. Scammell, thirty days' leave, upon completion of examination.

Capt. of Engineers D. McC. French.

Third Lieut. C. F. Knisken, detached

It matters little what it is that you want—whether a situation or a servant—a want ad in The Star will reach the person who will fill your need.

SOME CLASS.

Neighbor—"And who does the baby take after?"

Proud Pa—"Well, she sleeps all day and hollers all night. I think she takes after her Grandmother Kelly, who was an opera singer!"

THE MODERN HOSPITAL AND THE PUBLIC.

(Contributed by the Medical Society of the District of Columbia.)

Nothing has undergone a greater change in the last twenty years than the attitude and sentiment of the general public toward hospitals.

Twenty years ago, even ten years ago, they were generally looked upon as places of last resort for the poor and homeless sick; places of torture and suffering from which few returned alive. The sending of a patient to a hospital for operation was like issuing his death warrant.

Many consultations with tearful relatives were necessary, and many bitter protests had to be overcome before a grudging consent could be obtained. Often the patient was in extremis, after all this delay, before he arrived at the hospital, and the result was consequently unfortunate.

Indeed, the doctor hardly dared suggest a hospital or an operation until it had become apparent to all that the patient was rapidly approaching his end.

Held as Last Chance.

Then the operation was accepted as a last desperate chance for saving life; but without much hope on the part of the family, or of the patient himself. Such conditions were not conducive to successful operating and the worst fears of the relatives were too often realized.

The mortality was high. For modern surgery was in its infancy, and it was the exception, rather than the rule, to get an operation performed before the proper and favorable time had passed.

The greatest credit is due the surgeon who, by patience, bravery and untiring efforts, succeeded, not only in overcoming the dangers of surgical work, but also in showing this so plainly to the people that their hopeless attitude toward hospitals and surgical operations was almost entirely overcome.

Great credit is also due the physicians who were first to recognize the importance of early operation in such diseases as appendicitis, gallstones, tumors and like ailments, where spreading infection or damage to other organs is the usual result of delay. Through the efforts of such men the terrors of surgery and of hospitals have been banished. Vast improvements have been made for the comfort as well as for the safety of patients, and the hospital of today is unquestionably the safest and most luxurious place for the sick, who require either medical or surgical treatment. Even in the homes of the rich no such appliances for the comfort of the really ill are obtainable, no such constant and skillful care from nurses and physicians and no such systematic co-operation for the relief of suffering can be had as in a modern hospital. And this is real luxury to the sufferer.

Real Luxury to Ill.

Not costly furnishings, nor rich carpets and rugs, but cleanliness, skillful nursing and the constant care of skilled physicians, supplied with every instrument and appliance known to science for the relief of suffering, are what constitute real luxury to one who is seriously ill.

Appropriate and palatable food, freshly prepared in a diet kitchen by an expert and served in a dainty and attractive way; the constant soothing attention of a trained nurse clad in spotless white ;light and air in just the right proportion to suit each case; clean, airy rooms and fresh, clean, comfortable beds; only such visitors as are desired, freedom from household and business cares and the sense of protection in being under constant care and observation of a physician—these are the luxuries of the sick.

And nowhere can they be so well supplied as in a modern, up-to-date hospital. The public has come to know this. Even the wealthiest people now are ready and anxious to go to the hospital for surgical operations when they are necessary, and many prefer to go there for medical treatment also.

This has led to an increasing demand for better hospital accomodations. Shabby quarters are no longer tolerated, even though they be clean and though every appliance and facility for the best treatment be supplied.

The demand is for nicely furnished rooms, airy and well ventilated and heated, and furnished in an attractive, though simple, manner. Indeed, to the public this is a most important matter, for the layman cannot associate good service with shabby buildings.

Is a Costly Machine.

The modern hospital, therefore, has become a costly and complicated machine, and yet one that works smoothly and harmoniously in all its parts, and must look handsome, as well as do handsome work.

The employes needed to run such a hospital will nearly equal the number of beds for patients.

But it is not enough simply to supply such a building and furnish the requisite number of doctors, nurses and servants. Each worker must be specially fitted and equipped for his task, and must work in harmony with all the others for the common good. Otherwise the great machine will not run smoothly. A hospital is much like a chain, in that its strength is only that of its weakest link. One tactless employe, or one careless nurse, or one poor or grouchy doctor may be the cause of trouble, worry and disaster to the whole institution. One fault in technique in the sterilizing department may infect a whole ward. It is no easy task to select and get together a reliable and harmonious and trusty corps of workers for a whole hospital, even a small one. And yet it is done in most cases with remarkable success, in spite of all the difficulties. This is usually done by a board of directors, consisting of from twelve to thirty philanthropic men and women.

Are Not Self-Sustaining.

It is usually composed of representative citizens, men or women of the highest character and kindliest disposition, who are willing to give no small amount of time, and often a very considerable portion of their wealth, to aid their sick and suffering fellow-beings. Upon them devolves the duty of furnishing not only the buildings and equipment, but also the necessary money for current expenses, for no modern hospital can be self-sustaining, financially.

All modern hospitals take in a large proportion of patients who are unable to pay anything for board or treatment, and these patients receive as much care and skillful attention as the richest and most important, the only difference being that they are treated in open wards instead of in private rooms. In a certain way this is an advantage, for it is decidedly less lonesome for one in a ward containing twelve to twenty beds than in a private room. Generally, unless the patient in his private room is able to have a special nurse, and a few congenial visitors, this is true, for there is always something going on in the ward to keep one mildly interested and help to pass the time.

The sympathy and care that is given these poor patients by nurses, internes and visiting physicians is remarkable. I have never known a nurse or interne who would not cheerfully get out of bed, no matter how tired or sleepy, and give any amount of time and labor to lessen the suffering of a ward patient, and the visiting physician or surgeon, no matter how busy, never grudges them his time, and gives them invariably his best thought and work and courteous, sympathetic treatment. In most cities and communities, among English-speaking people the government freely recognizes its responsibilities in the matter of caring for the indigent sick.

Place Names in the War.

From the New York World.

A queer bargain has been struck in the Austro-Hungarian post office. The Croatians have agreed to quit addressing letters to Becs, the Slav name of Vienna; the Viennese are to address letters for the Croatian capital not to Agram, as they have been doing, but to Zagrab. The post office is expected not to deliver letters whose addressors disregard the truce. From Vienna (Wien or Becs) to Constantinople (Stamboul), and from Fiume (Rieka) to Saloniki (Selanik or Solun), this Babel's curse of triple names continues. It makes war maps difficult and war news at times almost incomprehensible.

Servia, Macedonia, where the Greeks have been fighting toward Saloniki, is also Selvidje, Selfidja, Servida and so on. Prishtina (Pristina) is spelled by the Servians who live in it Prshtena. Try to say "Prsh" and you get the first vowel sound. Belgrade is Beograd. Sofia in Cyrillic characters looks like Cophea. No Balkan language except Roumanian is even printed in Roman letters, and sound equivalents are not easy to determine. When the Greeks, for instance, are driven to spelling "beefsteak" "mpiphteki," what can one expect?

In Macedonia Turkish names are used by officials. Scutari is Skodra. Uskub is Skopije, Monastir is Bitolia, pronounced Vitolia. Adrianople is Andrinopie to the Latins and Edirne to the Turks. But from Kirk-Kilisseh to Constantinople the names are all Turkish, like the people, except an occasional seaport like Rodoso (Tekir-Dagh). The Turks use a joggly character similar to Arabic. The Greeks use the alphabet Homer did. Bulgarians, Servians and Montenegrins use an alphabet similar to Russian, but not identical. The Albanians have scarcely decided on an alphabet yet, but will probably use Roman letters.

Out of Date.

From London Opinion.

Wife—Any fashions in that paper, Jack?

Jack (who has just settled a dressmaker's bill)—Yes, but they're no use to you, dear. It's yesterday's paper!