

The Soldier's Hospital on David's Isla.

ITS LOCATION, DIMENSIONS, AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT—PERFECT HARMONY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTAL AND VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT—ACCOMMODATIONS PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE—WHAT IT HAS, AND WHAT IT NEEDS—EXPRESS ACCOMMODATIONS, ETC., ETC.

The Government Hospital for sick and wounded soldiers, established during the past season on David's Island, is getting to be an institution of such magnitude and importance as to deserve a more extended notice than it has yet received from the public Press. Already the largest in the United States, its accommodations are rapidly increasing, and its location, sanitary advantages, and general management, are such as to justly entitle it to the distinction of being in every respect a model institution of its kind.

David's Island (named after its owner, Mr. DAVID,) is located in Long Island Sound, opposite the village of Flushing, and about twenty-five miles from New-York. It contains, at high tide, about eighty-five acres, and previous to being leased to the Government, was used as a pasture ground, and had upon it only one dwelling—a spacious country mansion, now occupied by the military commandant, surgeons and doctors. It has a rocky foundation, affording abundance of pure water, its air is salubrious, and the surrounding scenery is unsurpassed in beauty.

In April last the Island was leased to the Government for five years, at an annual rent of \$2,000, and on the 23d of May preparations were completed for the reception of soldiers, at which date 200 invalids were removed thither. From that time to the present the accommodations have been rapidly increased, until there are now some 2,500 soldiers on the Island, and preparations are nearly completed to receive 1,100 more. The Government has spent about \$200,000 in the erection of buildings, draining, digging wells, &c.; and a careful inspection of the numerous structures, and the large amount of work performed, would satisfy the most testy grumbler that the money had been economically expended. The buildings are arranged in rows, with ample streets between, and are all painted white, with green blinds, presenting a neat, comfortable, and tidy appearance. There are 20 hospitals, or pavilions, as they are called, and 10 mess-rooms—the latter standing at intervals between the pavilions. The pavilions are 250 feet long, 25 feet wide, and 20 feet high, with ample ventilation at the top. The mess rooms are 85 feet long, and of the same width and height as the pavilions. At one end of each mess room is a kitchen capable of cooking for 160 persons, and in addition to these is a general kitchen, capable of cooking for 2,000 persons, and a bakery which can turn out 3,000 loaves of bread per day. Besides these, are three other kitchens for the volunteer associations, of which more anon. A large centre building is also being erected, and nearly completed, for the accommodation of the officers in charge of the Island, surgeons, apothecaries, clerks, &c. In addition to these buildings, which are all well built substantial structures, are 250 hospital tents with board floors, each accommodating 10 patients.

The military commandant of the Island is Capt. R. C. MORGAN, of the regular army, and the hospitals are under the charge of Dr. J. SIMONS, also of the regular army, who is Surgeon-in-Chief, and Dr. E. LEZ JONES, of the volunteer service. Each hospital or pavilion also has its separate doctor, and the entire medical corps is composed of men skilled in their profession, and constant and faithful in their attendance.

Thus much for the Government provisions for the welfare of the sick and wounded soldier; but there is another feature in the hospital none the less comforting to the poor invalid, and for which he is even more grateful—a feature which redounds to the credit of our comrao humanity, while it reflects the highest honor upon the noble army of sympathetic and kind-hearted women who originated and still carry it forward. This is the volunteer department of the hospital, and its labor is a labor of love. As before stated, there are three volunteer kitchens from which delicacies are furnished to the patients, such as no Government, however generous it may be, has ever yet put down in the soldiers' bill of fare. One of these kitchens is occupied by an association of ladies from Yonkers, another by the ladies of New-Rochelle and Glen Cove, and the third by the ladies of Pelham, Brooklyn and New-York. Soon after the hospital was established, and before accommodations had been completed for the convenient working of volunteer associations, there was some clashing between the Government employes and the volunteers, but now each have their appropriate quarters assigned to them, as well as their appropriate sphere of operations, and the utmost harmony prevails. Both of the surgeons in command, as well as the doctors, freely express their obligations to the ladies who conduct the volunteer department, and the happy smiles and cheerful looks which light up the countenances of the poor soldiers as these ministering angels pass through the hospital wards, show plainly enough how fully and how gratefully they appreciate their services.

The articles from the volunteer kitchens are dispensed only on the written orders of the surgeons and doctors, so that there can be no complaint of interference with the physician's regimen, or that the patient was killed by too much "stuffing."

To show what drafts the doctors find it convenient to make upon the ladies' larder, we give below a list of dishes dispensed from the Yonkers Kitchen on Sunday last:

Toast, 400 plates; jelly, 18 plates; baked apples, 100; roast beef, 35 plates; roast chicken, 40 plates; beef tea, 30 bowls; chicken broth, 18 bowls; tea, 202 cups; bread pudding, 70 plates; rice puddings, 28 plates; custard, 10 plates; corn bread and mush, 14 plates; gruel, 14 bowls; scalded milk, 8 bowls; crackers, 12 plates; biscuit, 120; hash, 36 plates; squash, 10 plates; corn-starch, 20 plates; peaches, 20; oranges, 25; lemons, 12; pears, 10; stewed do., 30; clam broth, 8 bowls; bread and milk, 8 bowls; potatoes, 10; milk punch, 200 tumblers; pickles, 12.

The above is only one of the volunteer kitchens for one day, and is exclusive of the large number of articles of clothing that are distributed daily.

The amount of good accomplished by these volunteer associations, acting systematically and under proper regulations, and harmoniously cooperating with the Government officers in charge, as they now do at this hospital, is incalculable. Much might be said, and deservedly, of the self-sacrificing labors of the noble women who spend their days and nights, for weeks together, in superintending their several departments and administering to the wants of the poor soldiers; but, to such as they, deeds of charity bring their own reward and need no trumpeting. Suffice it to say that they are ladies who move in the best society of their respective localities, and who cheerfully leave homes of comfort and ease to carry gladness and joy to the feverish couch of their country's defenders. From the prayers of the dying soldier in their behalf, and from the blessings of the living, they receive their reward.

It need hardly be said that these volunteer associations require large and constant supplies in the way of contributions, and that they appeal in the strongest language to the public for aid. The women are doing their part, and more; and it is for the benevolent male public to see that they do not lack for material. Arrangements are about being made by which all contributions for either of the associations can be left at the offices of Westcott's City Express, whence they will be dispatched to the island. The Government boat, the *Washington Irving*, leaves the Battery from the north side of Castle Garden every morning at 9½ o'clock, and, when it is convenient, articles may be sent to the boat by the donor from 8½ o'clock to the hour of starting.

Yesterday, the patriotic fruit dealers of Washington Market sent up fifteen or twenty baskets of peaches, which were distributed among the soldiers by Rev. Mr. J. S. HOLMES, of the Pierrepont Baptist Church, Brooklyn, who has spent his entire Summer vacation on the island, administering to the wants of the soldiers, and to whom the citizens of Brooklyn can apply for full information as to the character of

The volunteer department of the hospital, and the kind of contributions needed. Donors can rely on their contributions being faithfully and economically dispensed.

There is one thing greatly needed at the island, and the want of which, if it is suffered to continue, may yet result in terrible disaster. There is no fire-engine of any description on the island, and the buildings being entirely of wood, there is imminent danger of a conflagration, which, if it should take place, must inevitably result in great loss of life. It is the duty of the Government to supply this want, and we were glad to hear yesterday that steps were to be taken immediately to procure a steam fire-engine.

Another thing lacking on the island is music. The soldiers frequently express a desire to hear some of the patriotic airs which they were accustomed to hear in the field. If some of our City bands would make an occasional excursion to the island, and give the poor fellows a serenade, they would find an audience of eager and grateful listeners, to whom they would render a patriotic service.