

# THE MASSEYDONIAN STRETCHER

Motto --- "Always merry and bright."

No. 3.

CAIRO, 1st MAY, 1916.

## ANNIVERSARY OF HOSPITAL.

To-day a year ago we were in a New Zealand Military Camp: it is true, shut off from homes, but still in New Zealand, with just three weeks to think of what we were about to leave behind. May the 1st. of this year still finds us thinking about what we have left, and, of course, "there's no harm in thinking." Three weeks from to-day, then, completes our first year's active service as a Unit, and as 'tis said that the first year or so is always the worst, we propose entering the succeeding ones with a certain amount of assurance and preparedness following the experience gained.

We must express regret at the delay in the printing of this issue, which has been held back for the insertion of a special supplement giving a brief record of the work of the Unit for the term of its active service—year ending 22nd May. In the preparation and printing of this supplement there has been one object only, i.e. to give readers (more especially those in New Zealand, who have interested themselves in our behalf) a brief, concise statement of the work done.

It may be said that since arriving at Port Said on July 1st. last the Unit has

travelled slightly over 2000 miles, completely established two hospitals (one at Port Said and one in the Field just behind the Balkan Front) (and reconstructed and fitted out a third hospital (Ismailia).)

The summary of staff changes, and the list of staff, who have worked with the hospital during the year should also prove of some interest in showing the wear and tear in a Unit such as ours for that period. It will be noticed from the Summary of Staff Changes given that the depreciation in staff due to casualties and invaliding a number of members during the year, working the figures out on the basis of our present strength, has been, Officers  $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ , and Other Ranks  $26\frac{1}{4}\%$  (These figures do not include members transferred to base, among whom were a number who would probably be invalided to New Zealand).

We cannot speak too highly of the excellent support we have received from all parts of New Zealand both in the form of gifts of money and material, and this great help has been of immense assistance to us in filling our functions as a Stationary Hospital.

We commend our Anniversary of Unit edition to readers, and although our position back in the desert forbids to a certain extent our making it as polished as we should like, we trust that its reading may give them the pleasure it has given us to prepare.