

Healing on the Home Front

A Study on Convalescent Care

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Introduction

- A convalescent home is any place that facilitates long-term rehabilitation from an illness, mental issue, or injury
- Florence Nightingale
- Her design impacted the layout of future hospitals
- Metropolitan Convalescent Homes Association

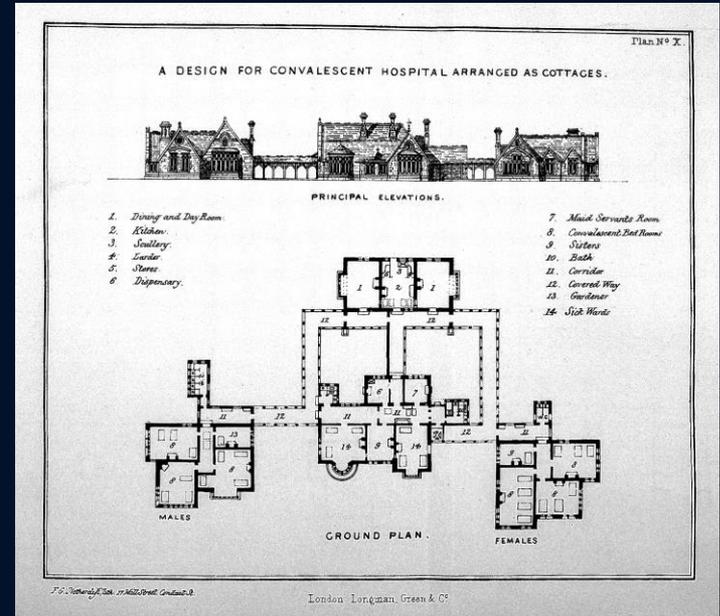


Figure 1: Florence Nightingale's design of an ideal convalescent home. Nightingale, Florence, *Florence Nightingale and Hospital Reform: Collected Works of Florence Nightingale*, Volume 16. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2012.

Outbreak of the War

- The establishment of a convalescent system gave England a head start
- Underestimation led to issues
- Temporary Hospitals
- Private properties asked to join the effort
- Requestioning



Figure 2: Patients and nurses in one of the four wings in First General Hospital, 1914.

<https://capturingcambridge.org/museum-of-cambridge/museum-exhibit-stories/first-great-eastern-general-hospital-trinity-college/>

England's Transformation

- Devon and the Voluntary Aid Detachments
- Constructing versus requisitioning
- King George Hospital
- Risedale Estate
- Highclere Castle
- Woburn Abbey

From the Trenches to Convalescence

- Dugout
- Field ambulance
- Clearing hospital
- Ambulance train
- General hospital
- Ambulance ships
- Convalescent hospitals

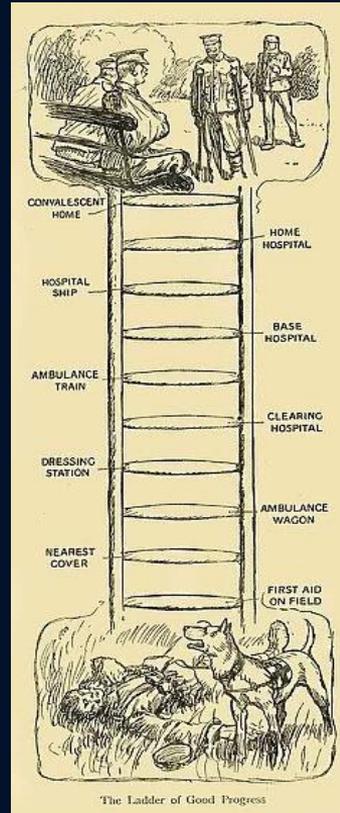


Figure 3: The Ladder of Good Progress explaining the process of recovery. Mumby, Frank Arthur. *The Great World War: A History*. London: Gresham Pub. Co., 1915-1917.

Soldiers Sent Home

- Further separation
 - Rank
 - Medical needs
 - Nationality
 - Culture
- By the War's end, hundreds of thousands of soldiers underwent convalescence
- Some famous men convalesced

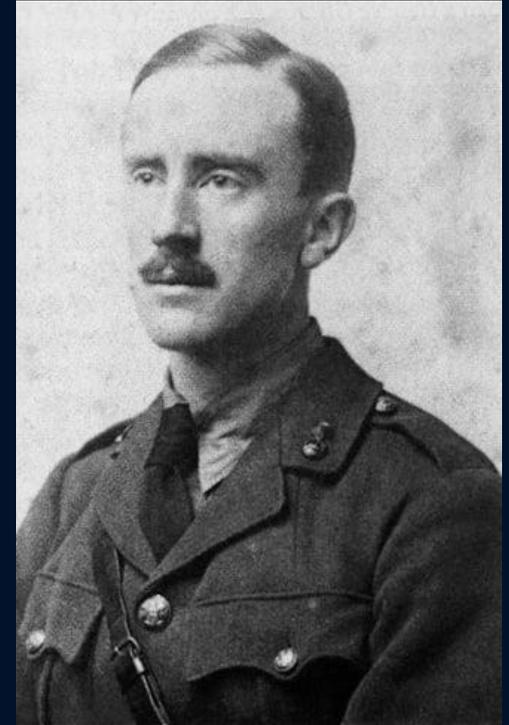


Figure 4: A picture of J.R.R Tolkien in his military uniform at age 24, 1916.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Tolkien_in_Uniform_1916.jpg

Nurses



- Often staffed by those too young or too old for field hospitals
- Special training
- Nurse to patient ratio larger
- Stayed in the convalescent hospitals with patients
- When sick or injured they had their own convalescent homes

Figure 5: Lady Almina Carnarvon reading to a convalescent soldier in her home, Highclere Castle. <https://www.charlottebetts.com/3246-2/#:~:text=She%20made%20beds%2C%20dressed%20wounds,when%20given%20sympathetic%20emotional%20support.>

Immediate Treatment

- Arrival was messy
- “Convalescent Blues”
- Sterile environment was the priority
- Convalescent Diet

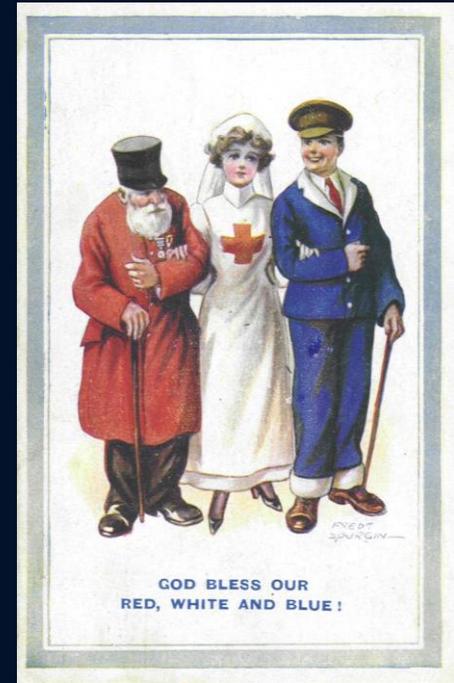


Figure 6: Propaganda used to promote convalescing soldiers to wear their blues in public. Reznick, Jeffrey S. *Healing the Nation: Soldiers and the Culture of Caregiving in Britain During the Great War*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2004.

Therapy

- Amputees
- Shell Shocked
- Trench Fever
- Gas attack victims
- Shattered bones
- Physical therapy
- Recreational therapy
- Workshops



Figure 7: Six unidentified WWI soldiers posing with a sideboard in a woodworking and cabinetmaking workshop at Oatlands Park, Surrey, England.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/community.27110505>

Entertainment

- Music
- Games
- Visitors



Figure 8: U.S. American National Red Cross Convalescent Hospital No. 102, Wimbledon, England. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017666907/>.

End of the War

- Temporary hospitals
- Permanent hospitals
- Patients

Conclusion

“You will be surprised to find out what a few days’ training will do. Others beside myself can testify to my remarks... You see one’s thoughts are taken off one’s ailment, and the general change creates an atmosphere of satisfaction, brought about by interest and enthusiasm, and the idea that one is, in spite of the loss of a limb, taking steps which will help to make one a useful and valuable citizen of the community.”

-Unidentified soldier who stayed at Queen Mary’s Auxiliary Hospital (Brereton, Mrs. M. A. Cloudesley. *The Future of Our Disabled Sailors and Soldiers: A Description of the Training and Instruction Classes at Queen Mary’s Convalescent Auxiliary Hospital at Roehampton and Queen Mary’s Workshops, Pavilion Military Hospital, Brighton.* London: 1917).

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