

THE NATION'S DEFENDERS.

T H E

New Jersey and the National Homes

FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS.

HOW THEY ARE CARED FOR.

(Second Edition, Enlarged.)

By JAMES BARBER,
Eighth New Jersey Regiment.

J 362.61
B 234

NEWARK, N. J.

PUBLISHED BY MARTIN R DENNIS.

For Library Use Only

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1873,
By JAMES BARBER,
In the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

PEACE AFTER WAR.

The peace of the valley returns,
There is joy from the east to the west,
And each heart with emotion now burns,
As the weary are welcomed to rest.

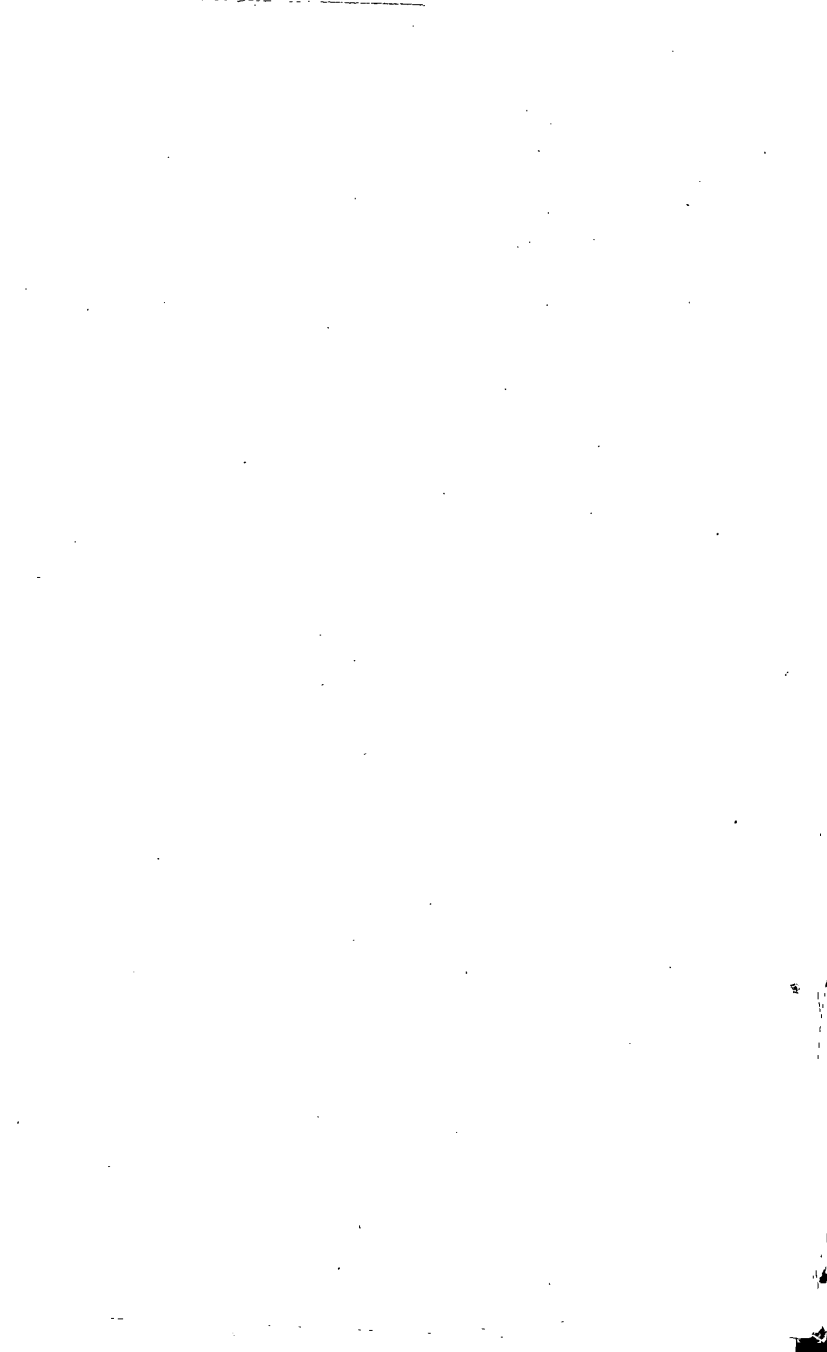
Oh! dark were the clouds that o'ercast
This broad land of freedom and light,
And fierce swept the hurricane blast
To wreck the fair stronghold of right.

Great Spirit of justice divine,
At thy call rose the loyal and true,
With hands and with hearts ever thine,
Undaunted thy brave boys in blue.

Triumphant o'er land and deep waters,
Their flag now unfurls as of old,
While the music of Freedom's fair daughters,
The deeds of her sons shall unfold.

Her fame o'er the wide world is spoken,
A love firmly blended with might;
She gathers the wounded and broken,
Like an angel of mercy, to light.

Brave comrades in battle so strong,
Now sheltered by blessings of love,
Raise the voice in gladness of song,
While the heart finds its echo above.



New Jersey and National Soldiers' Homes.

THE devastation of a rich and fertile country, with the burnt and blackened remains of its once comfortable and happy homes, are sad evidences of some of the lesser evils resulting from war. But other greater, more painful, and disastrous manifestations are soon apparent in the maimed and crippled soldier, and the armies of men returning from the terrible conflict with their physical powers weakened and destroyed.

At the close of the late war these evidences were presented to the American people, and their sympathies, so actively aroused during the long struggle in providing for the sick and wounded and the welfare of all engaged, were not allowed to slumber on that occasion. In most of the Union States soldiers' hospitals and

homes were established. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio were early in motion, and everything that medical skill, care, and comfort could suggest, was done for the returned soldier.

THE NEW JERSEY HOME FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS.

The founding of this State Home may justly be considered the initial step towards the establishment of Soldiers' Homes in this country, and the parent of similar institutions. The idea originated in the philanthropic mind of the Hon. MARCUS L. WARD, then a private citizen of the State, afterwards elected Governor, and present member of Congress for the Sixth District of New Jersey. From the outbreak of the war he became conspicuous as the friend of the sick and wounded soldiers, for whom he procured the establishment of the great general hospital in the city of Newark, which very suitably was called by his name. From his untiring efforts directed to the amelioration of the condition of the soldiers' families, by serving as a medium for the transmission of pay due the soldiers, in many

instances advancing money from his private funds, and generally as the counsellor, friend and adviser of the soldier in the honorable discharge of his duty, he became known throughout the army as "THE SOLDIERS' FRIEND."

When the war ended, it occurred to the Hon. MARCUS L. WARD that the duties of those benefited by the losses and sacrifices of our brave defenders would not cease, and that there must be imperative need for such an institution as this. He accordingly addressed a petition to the Legislature of 1863, asking for the appointment of a commission to examine into and report on the subject.

COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO INQUIRE AND
REPORT.

In response to this petition an act entitled, "Joint Resolutions in relation to Disabled Soldiers," was passed by the Legislature, and on the 12th day of April, 1864, received the approval of the Executive, which act appointed Marcus L. Ward, Daniel Haines, William A. Newell, Edwin A. Stevens, Charles S. Olden and

Theodore S. Paul, as commissioners, and referred the subject to them. The last-named gentleman declining to act, his place was filled by the appointment of Hon. Rynear H. Veghte. This commission reported February 1st, 1865, and recommended that a State Home be established, and asked for \$50,000 for the purchase and equipment of the home; also that commissioners be appointed to select and locate the land, either by purchase or lease. They likewise recommended a system of out-patients, by which men with families, who might prefer to live at home, might receive a small stipend from the funds of the institution.

STATE HOME TO BE ESTABLISHED.

An act in accordance with these suggestions was passed and approved March 23d, 1865, and the same commissioners were appointed, Mr. Veghte being substituted for Mr. Paul. By a supplement to this act the commissioners were empowered, if they should see fit, to purchase or receive by gift a leasehold of, or acquire by lease for a term of years, a site and grounds suitable

and sufficient for the said Home, and to rent or purchase any building or buildings that might be thereon, and to purchase or contract for materials for the enlarging, altering, or repairing of the same, and for the erection of buildings suitable for the said Home. The commissioners concluded, after due deliberation, that the site of the Ward U. S. General Hospital was more available than any other of which they could obtain knowledge, and accordingly leased the ground (twenty-three acres) for a term of five years, and purchased a number of the buildings and fixtures at a cost of \$7,475.30. The executive building of the hospital was fitted up at a cost of about \$5,000, and preparations made for the reception of patients. Other buildings remained to be brought into use as occasion should require.

STATE APPROPRIATION AND APPOINTMENT OF
MANAGERS.

Finally, an act approved March, 1866, made a State appropriation for the maintenance and support of the Home, and names the commission-

ers before mentioned Managers of "The New Jersey Home for Disabled Soldiers." In them was vested the government of the Home, and they were authorized to appoint a commandant, who should be a well-educated and competent physician and surgeon; a superintendent, chaplain, and physician for daily attendance on the sick, and their respective duties were defined.

The Board, after organizing by the appointment of Hon. Rynear H. Veghte as President, Hon. Daniel Haines, Secretary, and Marcus L. Ward, Treasurer, proceeded to appoint Col. A. N. Dougherty commandant, Rev. Samuel P. Moore superintendent and chaplain, and Dr. A. M. Mills physician: all of whom entered on the discharge of their duties, and the Home was opened for the reception of patients on the 4th of July, 1866. At this time several wounded and disabled soldiers were awaiting the opening of the Home, and had been temporarily provided and cared for by the Managers.

DEDICATION OF THE HOME.

The dedication of the Home took place on the 5th September, 1866, with imposing ceremonies,

soldiers and citizens of the beautiful city of Newark, and of the State of New Jersey, vying with each other in the manifestation of their sympathy, and the heartfelt expression of their gratitude to the maimed and disabled soldiers, who were welcomed to the home that had been prepared for them.

The location of the Home is certainly the best for salubrity and health in the city of Newark; it stands on a gentle rising ground called Mount Pleasant, and overlooks the main part of the city, which is within easy walking distance. Almost at the foot of the main or executive building lies a beautiful lake, supplied by one of the best springs of pure water in the city or neighborhood, and the large white painted buildings on the crest of the hill, the tall flag-staff with the national flag proudly thrown to the breeze, present quite an imposing picture.

The golden words that fell from Hon. Marcus L. Ward, Governor of the State, on the dedication of the Home, may with just propriety, be repeated here:

“And thus surrounded, I dedicate this Home to a purpose which honors our instincts and our

loyalty. I dedicate it as the residence of the soldiers and sailors of New Jersey, who have been wounded or disabled in the war for the life of the nation. I dedicate it to this roll of gallant soldiers who have borne these stars and stripes through many a bloody conflict. I dedicate it in the name and by the authority of the loyal people of New Jersey, whose generous purpose has ripened into the accomplished deed. And as we pass this spot thus dedicated to loyalty, let us remember the priceless gift these veterans preserved for us and our children."

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT OF THE HOME.

Since its organization, some changes have necessarily taken place in the internal management of the Home—the office of physician, as a separate one, having been abolished—the commandant and surgeon, brevet Col. A. N. Dougherty, performing the duties of that office in addition to his own, without increase of compensation.

The first superintendent continued in office until the year 1867, when he was succeeded by Major William Wakenshaw, and the latter having resigned in the beginning of the present year,

(1873) Major Charles A. Scott was appointed superintendent of the Home. These changes have resulted in the first instance in a saving to the treasury of a very considerable amount, and in the other in the establishing and maintaining a system of increased order and regularity, by which the comfort and happiness of all the inmates have been secured.

The rapid growth of the city of Newark has also extended to the Home grounds—a large portion having been taken for the purpose of forming new streets—and it would appear probable that in the course of a few years the present site will be clustered over with streets and houses, and all the elements of a busy population.

The present Board of Managers are :

HON. RYNEAR H. VEGHTE, *President.*

HON. MARCUS L. WARD, *Treasurer.*

HON. DANIEL HAINES, *Secretary.*

HON. C. S. OLDEN.

HON. W. A. NEWELL,

Col. E. H. WRIGHT.

The Managers hold meetings at short intervals at the Home, for the purpose of admission of inmates and the making such rules and regulations as may be necessary for its good government, and promoting the comfort of all who have obtained its sheltering aid. The President from his first appointment has attended at the Home once every week, and personally sees the inmates, to whom he has ever a word of sympathy and cheer.

The Rev. Isaac Tuttle is chaplain of the Home, and divine services are held every Sunday in the reading-room, in addition to which he is in almost daily communication with the sick and other inmates, seeking to promote their spiritual and moral welfare. Clergymen from the city also occasionally attend and volunteer their services in the same good cause. Since the appointment of the present superintendent, select readings, and delightful concerts, vocal and instrumental, are given once a week, in the reading-room, and are attended by nearly all the inmates. These concerts are gratuitously given by ladies and gentlemen from the city, and although not

professional, they would compare favorably with many of our public concerts. The readings are given by the commandant, Dr. Dougherty, and the superintendent.

The sympathy towards the inmates, and the wish to promote their happiness and comfort, has been further evidenced by gifts of books and other treasures of art, from various parts of the State. About two hundred and fifty volumes of miscellaneous books have been lately donated to the Home from the State Library, and are now accessible to the inmates.

The reading-room is also supplied with all the daily newspapers published in the city, the Jersey City Evening Journal, the State Gazette, Christian Advocate and the American Messenger, contributed gratuitously by the publishers. The New York daily papers and some of the standard magazines are also available for readers.

The beneficiaries of the Home are men disabled by wound, injury or disease contracted whilst serving in the armies of the Union, and belonging to the regiments of volunteers supplied by the State of New Jersey, and in some cases of

men who were citizens of the State previous to the war, but who by the circumstances of the war became enrolled in a regiment having another State designation. Evidence of these facts being furnished, and the disability certified by the examining surgeon, the men are permanently admitted and receive the full benefit of the institution.

When the requirements of the inmates render it necessary, uniform clothing are furnished, and tobacco is given weekly.

The employment of inmates is necessarily limited to the requirements of the institution, all the work of the hospital and Home being performed by them; the ground yet remaining attached to the Home is placed under cultivation and produces a goodly supply of vegetables for use of the inmates. This employment, necessitated by the wants of the inmates themselves, being now arranged by a perfect system of detail of duty, all that are able, taking a part, perfect unanimity prevails.

The regulations of the Home are for the maintenance and preservation of order and decorum,

the amalgamation of freedom and duty, that liberty and order should so fuse into each other that the condition prescribed by order, cannot be felt as a restraint on liberty.

The evils of intoxication are unfortunately everywhere apparent, and need not recapitulation. The rule in this respect is rigid; every violation of its edict subjects the offender to immediate expulsion from the Home, without the privilege of re-admission, and it is felt and believed that its strict enforcement is necessary for its maintenance.

Every inmate when not detailed for duty can have a pass, on application, which enables him to visit the city and his friends.

The report of the Managers for the first five months, ending November 30, 1866, shows the number of beneficiaries to have been seventy. During the next succeeding year, five hundred and two were recipients of its benefits, and on the 30th of November, 1867, the number then remaining in the Home was one hundred and fifty-seven. In that year, ninety-eight cases of disease received surgical treatment, and the

average proportion on sick list to whole number of inmates was one-third. Out-patients were admitted to share the benefits of the dispensary, and, including those, twenty-eight hundred and ninety-seven prescriptions were put up. For the year ending 30th November, 1868, the number of beneficiaries had increased to 573. One hundred and seventy-three were patients receiving treatment in the hospital, and the number of prescriptions were 5,469. In that year an arrangement had been in operation with the National Homes, by which the Home had been a temporary quasi branch of those homes, and 27 of the inmates had been transferred there. The following year, ending November 30, 1869, showed still a slight increase, the total number receiving benefit being 589, of which 120 were transferred to the National Homes. The reports for the year ending October 31st, 1872, exhibit a greater number of beneficiaries than at any previous period, the total number during the year being 680, and of these 258 were hospital cases; the average number of sick, per day, was 61, and prescriptions issued from the dispensary, 5,714.

By the reports of the commandant and the superintendent of the Home, for the year ending October 31st, 1873, a steady increase in the number of beneficiaries is shown, the total number receiving the benefit of the Home during that year, being nine hundred and sixty-four, of which two hundred and fifty-eight received treatment in the hospital.

The average number of sick per day was eighty-three, and the number of prescriptions issued from the dispensary were seven thousand, seven hundred and twenty-one. This number of inmates shows an increase of fifteen per cent. over the previous year, and they represent the following nationalities: the United States 41 per cent. of the whole number, Ireland 30 per cent., Germany 18 per cent., and other countries 11 per cent.

The chaplain also reports a very satisfactory increase in the well doing of the inmates, and a marked improvement in the general tone of their moral welfare; this may be considered as the result of the improved system of order under the present management, the powerful influence of a

well established reading-room, supplied with some of the best newspaper press of the country, the standard magazines, and other books generously contributed for the use of the inmates, and last, although not least, the choice selection of readings before mentioned, and the charm of music, with her sister, song, furnished by the once a week concerts.

The number of deaths during that year were forty-three against thirty-eight of the previous year.

It would, therefore, appear that the necessity which created the institution was still operative, and this, doubtless, may be attributed to the fact, that at the termination of the war, men returned to their homes with constitutions weakened by exposure and the germs of disease lurking in their system; they nevertheless resumed their former toil in the workshop and at the plough, until the forces of nature give way and they become prematurely broken down. It may, however, be now fairly anticipated that after a short time, the numbers will from time to time materially decrease, as the deaths are many.

Since the institution of the Home, two hundred have died there, and, unless buried by their friends, are interred at the expense of the State in the Soldiers' Burial Ground in the beautiful cemetery at Fairmount. A large majority of the deaths proceed from pulmonary consumption and chronic disease of various kinds. Several surgical operations of the most difficult nature known to the medical profession have been successfully performed at the hospital; one in particular, deserving especial notice. William Cockroft, lithotomy, removal of an iron ball, incrustated with urinary salts, from the bladder. This patient was wounded April 2d, 1865, in the final assault on the forts at Petersburg, Va., by a bullet contained in a shrapnell shell; the ball worked its way into the bladder, and becoming a source of annoyance was removed by operation, August 31st, 1868. He was discharged, feeling competent to earn a livelihood.

The inmates comprise many one-legged and one-armed men, the blind and partially blind, and others with disabilities incident to war and the severities of a long and arduous campaign.

Amongst them are two veterans of the War of 1812, both about 82 years of age; one quite well and hearty, able to amuse himself without the aid of spectacles, and the other exhibiting only the marks of a general decay.

One other statement is essentially necessary in reference to this Home. The disabled and wearied soldier from nearly every State in the Union, has from time to time found temporary rest and shelter therein; in many cases surgical treatment were necessary, for old wounds and disabilities, and when recuperated, has either at his own request been transferred to one of the National Homes or continued his travel to his own State and resumed his employment.

The system of relief for out-patients, consisting of medicines, medical assistance and stipend of from four to eight dollars per month, as their several circumstances require, is the means of enabling many to provide for the wants of their families, who otherwise would have had to rely on private charity for aid. The amount expended in cash allowances to out-patients for the year 1873, amounted to the sum of \$12,638.50.

The disastrous effects of war remain long after its great events have become records of history, but a pleasant reflection necessarily arises when we are enabled to view the liberality and wise forethought which have provided a home for the wounded and disabled soldiers, and this has peculiar reference to the State of New Jersey.

Not only did this State take the initial step and become the parent of similar institutions, but it is the last and only State that has continued the organization; the other States having from time to time ceased to make any appropriation for their maintenance, consequently they have been broken up and their inmates transferred to the National Homes.

It may be interesting at this place to glance at the origin of homes for disabled soldiers. The first grand undertaking for this purpose was made by Louis XIV., who in 1670, founded the establishment at Paris, under the name of the Hotel des Invalides. This edifice covers sixteen acres of ground, enclosing fifteen courts, and can furnish accommodation for 5,000 inmates. In 1855 the total number of invalid soldiers and officers

boarded, lodged and clothed in it amounted to 3,076. All soldiers, whether by land or sea, are actually disabled by wounds or who have served thirty years and obtained a pension, are entitled to the privileges of the institution. On entry the pension is surrendered, to be restored when the patient chooses to leave. This noble establishment was placed under the government of the Senior Marshal of France, with a brilliant staff of assistants, physicians, surgeons, chaplains, sisters of charity and servants of all kinds. The magnificent palace building contains a church surmounted by a dome and spire, 325 feet high, under which in grandeur repose the ashes of the Emperor Napoleon. Some notion of the gorgeous decoration of the tomb, with which the surrounding architecture is quite in keeping, may be had from its cost, which was more than 9,000,000 francs. Napoleon, whose wars frightfully augmented the number of inmates, granted the Hotel an annual subsidy of 6,000,000 francs. The revolutions in the public affairs of France, and the destruction of its magnificent buildings, have to a great extent, rendered the Hotel des Invalides valuable only as a record of the past.

In 1682, Charles II. founded the Military Asylum at Chelsea, England. It was completed in 1690, at a cost of \$750,000, and was built to accommodate upwards of 500 resident pensioners, besides which there was a large body of out-pensioners.

In 1705, Greenwich Hospital, occupying the site of a royal palace, the birth place of Henry VIII. and Queen Elizabeth, was opened for disabled seamen. This establishment consists of four quadrangular buildings, enclosing a square, each bearing the name of the Sovereign in whose reign it was erected. The wars in which Nelson achieved his never-dying fame, increased the number of pensioners to three thousand, independently of about two thousand out-pensioners. This magnificent building stands in noble grandeur on the bank of the river Thames, but its one-legged and one-arm occupants, so often the delight of the visitor to their palace and Greenwich Park, are gone, and the long yarns of the tars from the wooden walls of old England tell us no more.

The State of New Jersey, plain and simple

herself, needed not such grand and expensive displays as were exhibited in those asylums of the old world; the spirit of her people and the instincts of her loyalty to the institutions of the United States, were, however, fully manifested from the breaking out of the war, and continued with increased ardor until its termination; fully sensible, therefore, of the importance of providing generously for the necessities of those wounded or disabled in her service, she endowed, and has continued her State Home, modest and unpretending, sympathizing with the wants of her disabled soldiers, and surrounding them in the atmosphere of home, with the invaluable blessings and privileges that only a Home can give.

NATIONAL HOMES ESTABLISHED AND BOARD OF
MANAGERS APPOINTED.

After the several State hospitals and homes had been in existence for some time, it was considered by those who ever had the interest of the soldier at heart, that their benefits might be more fully developed and their usefulness enlarged by

establishing National Homes on a larger scale, where the disabled soldier of every loyal State would be welcomed and his every care attended to. To carry this purpose into effect, an act of Congress was obtained and approved March 21, 1865, and a Board of Managers appointed, of which the President of the United States, the Chief-Justice, and the Secretary of War are *ex-officio* members. Nine others were appointed by Congress, as follows: Major-general B. F. Butler, of Lowell, Massachusetts; Major-general John H. Martindale, of Rochester, New York; Jay Cooke, Esq., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Hon. Lewis B. Gunckel, of Dayton, Ohio; Governor Frederick Smyth, of Manchester, New Hampshire; Dr. Erastus B. Wolcott, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Brigadier-general John S. Candler, of St. Louis, Missouri; Hon. Hugh L. Bond, of Baltimore, Maryland; General Thomas O. Osborn, of Chicago, Illinois.

The Board, at its first meeting, elected General Butler president, and Mr. Gunckel as secretary, and it has kept up the same organization ever since.

The act of Congress authorized the Board of Managers to establish one or more asylums, and under it the Central Asylum was established at Dayton, Ohio, the Eastern Branch at Augusta, Maine, and the Western at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION.

To establish and maintain these homes a Congressional appropriation was made of stoppages and fines adjudged against officers and soldiers during the war, all forfeitures on account of desertion from the service, and all unclaimed moneys due deceased officers and soldiers. It is a contribution from soldiers to soldiers, from bounty-jumpers and bad soldiers to the brave and deserving.

A fourth branch, under the same organization, has subsequently been established at Hampton, Virginia, it having been considered that the greater mildness of the climate there might be more favorable to some cases of disease.

THE CENTRAL BRANCH, AT DAYTON, OHIO.

The rich and fertile valley of the Miami—in which is situate the Central Branch—is well

known as second to none in the United States in beauty and salubrity. Dayton is a beautiful and busy city, with a population of thirty-five thousand, and is about midway between Columbus and Cincinnati.

The Board of Managers, having succeeded in selecting an eligible site, became the purchasers of five hundred and forty acres of land, about three miles west of the city of Dayton, and in 1867 active work was commenced on the new home. At the time of the purchase the lands were in the ordinary condition of farm-lands of the State, possessing, however, natural beauty and great facilities for improvement; above all, the supply of water was both abundant and excellent. On the grounds are several mineral springs, two of which have rare medicinal properties. The site overlooks the city and the beautiful valley of the Miami for miles around. During the past year the Managers have purchased about one hundred acres of adjoining land, partly wood and the remainder well cultivated lands, which have been added to the farm and vegetable garden.

The grounds have been laid out under the supervision of a competent landscape gardener; and the Home, with its broad avenues, beautiful lakes, splendid groves, and cultivated lawns, presents one of the most attractive places in the country; but few public or private parks and grounds being better ornamented. Although but five years having elapsed since its commencement, with improvements continually being made, it has grown to be not only the largest and most flourishing institution of the kind in this country, but one of the largest in the world.

Leaving the city of Dayton, the ground gradually ascends to a hill; and through a handsome gateway the spacious grounds are entered—rich with green verdure, and embellished with stately and ornamental trees, which cast their grateful shadows around. The entrance lodge is a model of elegance and beauty, built in the old-cottage style, and kept by an old soldier.

THE HOSPITAL BUILDING.

A broad and well-kept carriage-road leads to the hospital building. This is a large and noble

structure, built of brick, with ornamental facings. It is three stories high, with basement for kitchen, bakery, medicated baths, smoking-rooms, sleeping-rooms for nurses and employes, mortuary, etc. The building is two hundred and ninety-three feet long, and composed of a center or administration building forty-one feet by one hundred and thirty-one, and two wings divided into wards for various classes of injuries and diseases, each of the six wards being thirty-one by one hundred and sixteen feet, with two rooms in the towers, twelve feet square, attached to each ward, and fitted up for bath and wash-rooms, water-closets, etc. About mid-distance is the dispensary, completely finished in every respect. The dining-rooms on each floor are supplied from the kitchen by means of dumb-waiters.

The entire building is heated by steam, the boiler-house being a separate building, distant one hundred feet from the hospital. This elegant and well-arranged building—acknowledged to be the best constructed and best adapted hospital in America—cost \$185,000, and is designed to accommodate three hundred patients.

A matron is in daily—or, it may be said, hourly,—attendance; and as she glides through the various wards with elastic step and cheerful voice, with a kind word for all, she imparts a spirit of cheerfulness and happiness, as far as can be, to the sick and weary. An intelligent steward has general charge, with ward-master and nurses for each ward, who move noiselessly over the polished floor, ever ready to comply with the least wish and desire of their patients. Here may be seen the young and once vigorous man, with the deadly seeds of consumption, sown in a southern clime, now ripening to their harvest; the once powerful limb, painful and useless from the fever of rheumatism, the result of many nights' disturbed rest on the bare ground of "Old Virginia" and the swamps of the Carolinas and Georgia; old wounds from the bullets of the rebel enemy, which, having failed in their deadly purpose, have yet left their torturing sting; the nerve of iron and sinew strong, now paralyzed and dead to life and action; and a considerable number to whom the light of day is forever closed, and who in darkness must finish life's

troubled journey, no more to look upon the face of friend or foe. There are also many who, from injuries received on battle fields, and other causes consequent upon the severities of a long campaign, have, to a minor degree, lost the light of reason, and with clouded and aberrated intellects, pursue the yet remaining portion of life's pilgrimage, harmless to others, yet requiring constant attention and care. At present these inmates are located in frame buildings contiguous to the hospital, but with the continuing and growing improvements of the Home, it is in contemplation to erect a handsome and commodious brick building, corresponding with the hospital, which when completed, will afford every comfort and convenience for the requirements of these patients.

Drs. McDermont and Dunlap have had the care of the sick ; and it is needless to say that everything that the best medical knowledge, skill, and attention could avail, has been given by them. The former has lately removed to the Home at Hampton ; but his place is quite as ably filled by Dr. Towle, from the Milwaukee Home.

The residence of the surgeon-in-chief is a short distance only from the hospital, and the second surgeon has a residence in the main building. The sympathy toward the returned soldier and the alleviation of his present condition, has been further evidenced by the rich gift of a very handsome carriage and pair of horses, for the purpose of enabling hospital patients from time to time to be taken drives in the neighborhood. This noble gift was lately made to the Home by the ladies of the North Ohio Soldiers' Society, represented by Mrs. B. Rouse, Miss May C. Brayton, and Miss E. T. Terry, of Cleveland, Ohio.

THE CAMP.

From the hospital we proceed to the busy camp. Here we meet with men from every loyal state, and from every corps and regiment that took part in the great struggle. Many are stumping along with a wooden leg, some with artificial legs; and many an empty sleeve flies idly in the breeze, doubtless the largest number of one-legged and one-armed men in any single institution in the world. The larger number

move only by the aid of crutches. Others there are with all their fair proportions; but a single glance will show that the rigors of the campaign and the hardships of the tented field have broken down their strong constitutions, leaving only the wreck behind. All, however, have a comparatively cheerful appearance, and are probably discussing some general topic of the day, and enjoying the solace of the fragrant weed. A considerable number are in uniform dress, but as the rule in this respect is not strictly enforced, the dress of others varies according to the taste of the wearer.

THE BARRACK-BUILDINGS.

The principal barracks are large, handsome three-story frame houses, detached—there being a space of from fifty to sixty feet between each, laid out and ornamented with trees, and kept as lawns. Each barrack is one hundred feet long by twenty-five wide, with French roofs, of uniform size and appearance. They have windows on four sides, have no partitions to interfere with the perfect and natural ventilation, are admir-

ably adapted for sitting and sleeping-rooms,—each floor accommodating about forty men,—and are well supplied with closets and wash-rooms. Pictures adorn the walls; and handsome tables for daily use, coal and wood stoves for heating, when required, and chairs for all, leave nothing that could be desired, and present a picture of ease and comfort unequaled by any first-class hotel. Each barrack is in charge of a sergeant, with a corporal on each floor, and under their direction the most perfect order and cleanliness are maintained.

These barracks represent, as it were, one side of a street or square. They front a broad and level green, stretching away to the distant woods, the deer-park, and the waters of the silvery lake dancing to the bright beams of the morning sun. In the rear is a principal thoroughfare, on the opposite side of which are similar barracks, the grand dining-hall being in the center. In the middle of the green is an ornamental band-stand, from which each day come martial airs and all the popular music of the day. During the present year one of the frame

houses in the line or street of barracks has been removed to an opposite side, and a substantial brick building erected in its place, the architectural uniformity of style being carefully preserved; and it is contemplated from time to time, to substitute brick buildings for the other frame houses. Other brick buildings are now in course of erection, namely, a new bakery, adjoining the kitchens, and a new fire engine house. It is also intended to heat the several barrack buildings by means of hot air, and the necessary works have been constructed for this purpose.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT, COMMISSARY
STORE, ETC.

Handsome blocks of buildings comprise the quartermaster's department, commissary store, printing office, post office, telegraph office, general store, and quarters for officials.

EMPLOYMENT OF INMATES

Another feature in this beautiful picture must not be omitted, as it is one so prominent in the

American character, namely, a practical usefulness where necessary. Fully believing that men everywhere are more healthy and happy by having something to do, it has been a cherished object of the management to encourage employment of every kind, by giving moderate compensation for every kind of useful labor. All non-commissioned officers, clerks, ward-masters, engineers, nurses, cooks, bakers, waiters, etc., are taken from the inmates, and paid for their work. Workshops are numerous for mechanics of all trades, and here can be seen, busy as bees, painters, cabinet-makers, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, carpenters, plumbers, gas-fitters, tailors, shoe-makers, saddlers, harness-makers, broom-makers, cigar-makers, and stocking-makers. All are encouraged to work at their trades, others to learn a trade, if they are so disposed, all the profits being given to them.

In the construction, the painting on all the buildings was done by one-armed painters, inmates of the Home. Much of the furniture in the buildings was made by disabled soldiers; and a considerable part of the lighter work in smooth-

ing and ornamenting the grounds was done by them. They perform nearly all the work in the garden and orchard, and in improving and beautifying the place. A large number of cigars, brooms, and stockings are made for sale. A soap-factory is in full operation, and it supplies all the demands of the laundry and inmates for this necessary article. A printing office, having a fine Gordon press and a good stock of material, is in successful operation. Here is executed the printing required by the management. The orders, circulars, and blank-work, the bills and posters for Music Hall, as well as the miscellaneous work, cannot be excelled by any printing office in the larger cities, and are specimens of beauty and excellence both in design and execution. Book-binding is also carried on, and the work is entitled to equal merit with the printing office.

LAUNDRY AND ENGINE-HOUSE.

In a large brick building is the laundry, where all the washing is done by steam. Connected with the laundry is the engine-house, where the

steam is generated for the laundry, for cooking, and heating the head-quarters, dining-hall, and bath-house.

HEAD-QUARTERS, LIBRARY, AND READING-ROOM.

Detached from the other buildings, and on the same broad greensward, are the head-quarters, a large and handsome brick building, in which are the offices of the deputy-governor, secretary, treasurer, quartermaster, adjutant, and clerks. Over these and occupying the entire second floor, is the library and reading-room. This splendid room is about one hundred feet long by thirty-seven feet wide, and is adorned with two hundred or more rare and beautiful pictures, all of which have been donated to the Home.

THE THOMAS LIBRARY.

At the west end of the room is the Thomas Library, containing three thousand, five hundred volumes of standard works, many of them in costly binding.

THE PUTNAM LIBRARY.

At the east end is the Putnam Library, containing two thousand volumes. This library was

founded by Mrs. Mary Lowell Putnam, who has from time to time made rich and costly gifts of books to the Home, the choicest and the best in every department of literature. The value and interest of these donations it is impossible to sufficiently estimate. The beautiful sympathy thus manifested must ever present to every soldier an everlasting and enduring monument to the memory of this noble benefactress, and also to that of her beloved son, who, devoting his life to the service of his country, fell on a southern battle-field, a soldier and true patriot. This estimable lady visited the Home during the last summer, and was received by all the residents with deep feelings of respect and gratitude. She received the inmates in the library; and many were presented to her, to whom she addressed words of kindness and consideration. The devotion to the best interests of the Dayton Home, thus evidenced, has no parallel in the history of public benefactors—seeking only, as an earthly reward, that her noble gifts be appreciated, and that by enlarging the capacity of the mind, and cheering what might sometimes be

a weary hour, the condition of all might be improved, and the happiness of every disabled soldier promoted. However varied may be the inclination of the reader in the subject-matter of his reading, whether history, geography, philosophy, or poetry, the records of great travelers, the researches into science, or works of fiction by the best authors, these libraries supply the most ample means, and are daily in demand by the inmates. Liberal donations to both libraries continue from time to time to be made, the latest editions of the best and most popular works, and the addition to the Putnam Library, of many volumes of the illustrated art journals, is a gift by Mrs. Putnam, which cannot be too highly estimated, as affording every reader the opportunity of enjoying the richest beauties of literature and art. In the center of the room are handsome library-tables, covered with the standard magazines of Europe and America, books on art, illustrated papers, and the lighter literature of the day, journals on science, mechanics, and agriculture, and last, though not least, educational books to instruct and improve. Library

chairs are numerous ; and each day they may be found occupied by many readers. On each side of the room are reading-stands, on which are filed daily and weekly newspapers from nearly every State in the Union, representing all parties and all denominations, which are furnished *gratis* by the generous publishers. It is not to be wondered at that these attractions form one of the chief points of interest, and daily receive the attention and elicit the admiration of the crowds of visitors. The library is in charge of the chaplain, as *ex-officio* librarian, and two assistant librarians.

THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

At a short distance from head-quarters is the church. It is built of stone, in the Gothic style, and, with its tapering spire pointing to heaven, completes the picture of a well-arranged and busy town, with the serene and soothing influences of a religion dictated by the pure principles of peace and love. The church is handsomely arranged, comfortably seating eight hundred persons, and will compare favorably with the best city

churches. Many citizens of Dayton occasionally attend the morning services. The Rev. W. Earnshaw, formerly a pastor of Shippensburgh, Pennsylvania, and chaplain of the forty-ninth Pennsylvania volunteers, is the chaplain. Entering the army on the 16th of April, 1861, he continued in active service in the field throughout the entire war, and to its successful termination. He is, and has ever been, an active and earnest worker in everything tending to promote the welfare and happiness of the soldier. Morning and evening services are held in the church each Sunday, and in the hospital every Sunday afternoon. To instruct, improve, and purify the minds of so varied a congregation, his eloquent discourses are free from the tone of sect or party. The pure and simple truths of a religion based upon the divine teachings and readings, are earnestly and zealously imparted; and it may with truth be said that all and every one might take part in the services, and not fail in receiving benefit thereby. Weekly prayer-meetings are held in a large, convenient room in the basement, and form pleasant reunions with a considerable number of inmates.

Sabbath-school, under the direction of the chaplain, is also held in the morning, and is well attended. Whenever required, the church is placed at the disposal of the priesthood of the order of Roman Catholics, and services are held for the benefit of those who belong to that church. Occasional services are also conducted in the German language—a large number of inmates being natives of that country.

A day-school, under the direction of an accomplished and amiable lady, Miss Eaton, is also in operation. Here men who have lost their right arm are taught to write with the left hand. Others are taught book-keeping, and others still are prepared for teaching school, so that they can go out into the world again, and earn their own living. Others are learning to read, some of them (mostly colored men) having to commence at the alphabet. A large class have been taught telegraphy, with the view of earning their own living as telegraph operators; and to facilitate their studies, as well as to connect the asylum with the outside world, a telegraph line has been erected to the city. There are also classes in music, both instrumental and vocal.

CHAPLAIN'S RESIDENCE.

Near the church is a pretty frame cottage, residence of the chaplain and his family.

MUSIC, AND GAMES OF RECREATION.

In the present age of civilization and refinement, communities congregating in towns and villages require the luxury of music of the opera and drama, and the recreation of healthy games. The managers of the national homes have taken care to provide all these; and at one end of the square of barracks is the music hall, with a capacity of seating about six hundred persons. The national flag decorates the ceiling and columns, and the paneled windows show the names of the principal battles in which the men have been engaged. During the winter season the posters issued from the printing office announce a concert, vocal and instrumental, the visit of some magician and ventriloquist, the delivery of a lecture by some eminent lecturer, or a performance by the Home Minstrel Troupe. It frequently happens that operatic stars are at Music Hall,

Dayton, and the manager, Hon. Lewis B. Gunckel, (who resides in Dayton,) hastens to enlist their services for the gratification of the home veterans. The musical clubs and choirs from the city and neighborhood, make frequent visits, and volunteer delightful concerts. Traveling lecturers, as well as musical troupes, often favor the Home without charge. From the same stage their old generals sometimes again address them in stirring words of cheer and praise, and members of both houses of the legislature of Ohio come to express their feelings of gratification and welcome. Near the music hall is the amusement hall, containing a billiard-table, two bagatelle-tables, (English and German) and three ten-pin alleys. Over these are the quarters of the band, with room for study and practice. The band is composed wholly of disabled soldiers, and, under the direction of a competent leader, plays on the grounds every afternoon.

BATH-HOUSE.

Another well-built brick building contains bath rooms—hot and cold water, and all requi-

site appliances. Once a week every man can have the luxury of a bath, made according to his own pleasure.

RESIDENCE OF THE DEPUTY-GOVERNOR.

The residence of the deputy-governor, a plain frame mansion-house, overlooks the camp.

All the public buildings, the barracks, and the roads, streets, and avenues are well lighted with gas made at the Home.

ASSOCIATIONS AT THE HOME.

Associations, having for their object the welfare of their fellow-men, have been organized, and are carried on with energy and vigor. The Grand Army of the Republic have a post, with many members; and the Good Templars and Sons of Temperance exercise their powerful influence, and promote the good cause of universal brotherhood in the paths of virtue and charity.

OUTSIDE ASSOCIATIONS.

Nor is the Home without the pleasant associations of the outside world. Crowds of visitors

from all parts of this country and Europe come here daily, and express their admiration of the Home and its surroundings. In addition to these, during the summer months gay picnic parties fill the woods, carriages of various description throng the broad drives and avenues, and fair promenaders, in visiting the garden, library, church and other buildings, evince the proud satisfaction they feel in so noble and beautiful a home having been provided for the nation's defenders.

The ladies of the Christian Association of Dayton also attend weekly, with music and reading for the blind. An historical and monumental society has been organized, having for its object the collection of records of the great rebellion, and the building of a monument to the memory of those who fell. The national days for rejoicing and thanksgiving are duly kept at the Home, all work being suspended on those days, and an extra dinner provided for the inmates; each anniversary of the inauguration of the Home is kept in the same way, and the days of rejoicing are usually concluded with a concert at Music Hall.

DECORATION DAY.

The 30th day of May in each year has for some time past been set apart as a national day for the decoration with flowers of the graves of the fallen brave. Many hundreds of these are in the national cemeteries, on battle fields where they fell, and every Union State has its cemetery where those who have died subsequent to the close of the war are buried. The cemetery of the Dayton Home is within its own grounds, placed in a beautiful grove; the tall trees cast their shadows over long lines of green grassy mounds, and fully develop the poetic beauty of the grave. Each grave is marked by a white painted head-board, with the name of the buried soldier, and the regiment and company in which he had served; between three and four hundred of these graves are in this cemetery. For some time previous to the appointed day the ladies of the Christian Association of Dayton, assisted by other ladies of the city, have formed committees to carry out the purposes of decoration. This beautiful tribute to the memories of the dead forms one of the great days at the Home, and

very large number of visitors from the city and neighborhood take part in the proceedings. An oration for the occasion is usually given.

No sculptor's skill of monumental art,
Or poet's pen to paint the story,
But simple words that speak to every heart,
They died, for freedom's cause, and freedom's glory.

From all the walks of daily life,
In busy town and peaceful vale,
They came to meet the frowning strife,
And brave the tempest's angry gale.

Tossed by the fierce and surging wave,
Amid the flash and thunder's roar,
They died, a Nation's life to save,
And sorrow's voice speaks evermore.

Fair hands, yet fairer hearts, will place
Sweet flowers upon each grassy grave,
Emblems of a Nation's love, to trace
A Nation's honor for her fallen brave.

The stirring sounds of camp and war,
The shout of victory, and the wail of death,
Are hushed beneath the pale and silent star,
Peace, with love, entwines the immortal wreath.

THE FOURTH OF JULY.

This is also a great distinctive day of rejoicing and merry-making. From early morn until the

shades of evening the broad drives, the splendid woods and well-kept lawns are full of pleasure seekers; the happy memories of olden time are revived by the games and songs which their forefathers played and sung, and free from any other influence than the purest of pleasure; it may fairly be considered a day of unmitigated delight.

GARDEN AND CONSERVATORY.

After a gentle walk from the barracks, and passing through a very handsomely-decorated arch, on which are inscribed words breathing the sentiment of the nation's liberty and love, we come to a lovely dell where the art of the florist and botanist has been brought into requisition,—a landscape garden, with nature's choicest flowers, beauty and fragrance to delight the eye and charm the senses,—the conservatory and greenhouse, with plants from the tropics, and trees bearing their delicious fruit. Creeping vines adorn the rock-work, and rustic seats are conveniently placed for rest and pleasure. Three mineral springs are converted into drinking-fountains; and it is not too much to say that

nature and art combined, have succeeded in creating a little paradise of peace and beauty. The care of the conservatory and the pleasing occupation of the cultivation of the plants and flowers is performed by inmates, and in addition to the enlivening beauty of the flowers, forms the most successful one as a source of profit; choice bouquets and collections of flowers being eagerly sought for by visitors and the citizens of the city of Dayton. On the edge of the garden are rustic summer-houses. On the surface of a lake of considerable extent, the graceful swan is majestically sailing, and men in pleasure-boats, provided for the purpose, are gaily paddling their own canoes.

DEER-PARK AND MENAGERIE.

Crossing a rustic bridge, we are in the woods and deer-park, containing fifty or sixty deer, several of which were sent from Lookout Mountain. They are attended to by an old soldier, who was once deer-keeper to the king of Prussia. They have become so domesticated that they are quite tame, and will bound to instead of from

their numerous visitors. Magnificent elks are also here ; also a fine black bear, in excellent quarters, and quite a little menagerie of wolves, foxes, etc.

FARM AND KITCHEN GARDEN.

A large part of the grounds are under cultivation as a farm and kitchen garden, from which great and useful crops are raised. Men that are able are here employed ; and in addition to following so healthy a pursuit, they are in receipt of money wages considerably greater than they would be able to earn outside.

THE DINING-HALL AND DAILY ROUTINE.

We have yet to visit the great dining-hall, and will go in with the crowd on the commencement of the daily routine of life in the camp. At sunrise the morning gun arouses the sleepers from their comfortable beds, and soon after, the bugle, with its glad notes, sounds the reveille—not at this hour to renew the previous day's engagement with the enemy, or to pursue the weary march

through tangled brush and miry swamp, but quietly and easily to perform the morning ablution, then in groups to discuss some new camp-rumor, enjoy the morning smoke, and await the sound of the bell over the dining-hall. Presently the bell is sounded, and all for the first table proceed there. The hall is nearly in the form of a square, with a wide passage-way in the center, and will comfortably seat about seven hundred at one meal. The national flag and the emblems of the Republic are appropriately placed, while on strong square columns supporting the roof are fixed representatives of cannon balls, inscribed with the names of all the great battles of the war.

Each table will seat forty-two men, which are divided into seven messes, of six in each. Table-cloths, plates and bowls, are of dazzling whiteness; and the usual accompaniments of a well-laid table are neatly arranged. A sergeant is in charge to preserve order, and direct any new-comer to a place; and all being seated, the signal is given by a bell, and the work of breakfast begins. The number of inmates having in-

creased more than was anticipated, a second table has to be arranged for a like number of men. The quality and the quantity of the diet, and the cleanliness and order everywhere observed, reflect the highest credit on this noble institution and the recipients of its benefits.

In the rear of the dining-hall are the kitchen and bakery.

The breakfast over, working parties proceed to their employment, and others devote their leisure to the interest they take in the varied objects of the Home. The bugle sounds for sick call at nine o'clock, and all having any ailment to complain of may attend, and will receive the attention and assistance required. Dinner at twelve; supper at six; and at nine o'clock all are at home. At the sound of the bugle lights are extinguished, and quiet reigns throughout the whole camp.

Such is the daily programme of life in the Dayton Home, and with their own little personal affairs, all may find full occupation for mind and body.

FIRE-BRIGADE AND SUPPLY OF WATER

An efficient fire-brigade is in complete organization, and they have a very handsome and useful steam fire-engine, presented to the Home by the Hon. L. B. Gunckel.

The supply of water required for all purposes by the Home is abundant, and of excellent quality. All the public buildings, and the barracks, are plentifully supplied by means of pipes, so that every one experiences the greatest comfort and convenience.

NUMBER OF INMATES.

The number of inmates have been, at one time, as high as one thousand, eight hundred ; but they are continually coming and going, a few on discharges, and others on furloughs. From its central position, and the healthfulness and salubrity of the climate, the number of inmates are considerably larger than at the other homes. The total number cared for during a past year, was two thousand, four hundred and twenty-six ; the average number of regular inmates at the other homes, being about five hundred in each.

INMATES CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF OHIO.

It has been adjudged that all inmates of the Home who comply with the requisitions of the law are entitled to the rights of citizens of the State of Ohio, and as such are entitled to vote at all elections of the State. On the occasion of the late election for a member of Congress and State officers, it has been admitted by all parties that the peace, order and good-will exhibited by so large and varied a number of voters and partisans, compare most favorably with any city or town in the State.

ADMISSION OF INMATES.

The beneficiaries of this great institution are honorably discharged soldiers of the Union, with some disability arising from wound, injury, or disease contracted in the service. On making application for admission, evidence must be furnished of an honorable discharge, with a statement of the disability. The medical officer in charge examines this disability, and having certified to the same, the applicant will be admitted. On admission he is sworn to observe and keep all

the rules and orders the Board of Managers may make for the regulation of the Home. He is then allotted to a barrack, and furnished with a complete suit of uniform clothes. Men in receipt of a pension from the Government are required, on admission, to give up their pension-papers, to purchase their own clothes after the receipt of the first suit, and to provide their own tobacco. Non-pensioners are allowed two suits of clothes each year, and four ounces of tobacco weekly. If at work, and receiving pay, they have to purchase the latter.

The quarterly payments of the money to which the pensioners are entitled are received by the managers on behalf of, and as the trustees and bankers of, the pensioner. When the amount of pension-money has been placed to the credit of the pensioner, he can make application for and receive the same, provided it is required for any proper or useful purpose; but he will not be allowed to receive the pension for the purpose of squandering it in dissipation. A very large amount is from time to time transmitted to the wives and families of pensioners, by means of

money orders and registered letters, the Home post office being legally constituted for this purpose. The pensioner may also allow his pension to accumulate, in charge of the treasurer of the Home, when interest is allowed on the amount. Every man on taking his discharge is entitled to, and receives, the amount of money then standing to his credit.

In so large and varied a number of men, of course there are some who fail to observe the principal regulations of the Home, and thus subject themselves to the penalty of its violation,—namely, returning to camp in a state of intoxication, and the bringing of spirituous liquors with them. These men are sometimes limited in the amount of money allowed to them.

READMISSION OF INMATES.

It occasionally happens that men who have taken a discharge from the Home, on the supposition that they will be able to maintain themselves outside, have been compelled to return and apply for readmission. These men are, on application, admitted temporarily until the then next meeting

of the Board of Managers, when their applications are considered and acted upon. They may then be admitted unconditionally, according to the circumstances that led to their taking their discharge, or on conditions adjudged by the managers. In general cases admission is allowed upon the condition that the applicant perform such work in the institution as the deputy-governor may direct, for the period of three months; in other cases longer periods of time are prescribed as the condition. If the applicant is a pensioner, he may be directed to forfeit to the Home the receipt of his pension, or a portion of it, for a limited period.

PENSIONERS AND NON-PENSIONERS.

Of the inmates a considerable number are in receipt of pensions liberally granted by the United States government; many of these are pensions of eighteen dollars per month, and by a recent act of legislation, applicable to some cases of one-legged men, increased to twenty-four dollars per month, whilst others are of smaller amounts, according to the disabilities incurred;

the other inmates are not in receipt of any pension. This arises from the fact that many have been, from various causes, unable to obtain the necessary evidence to establish their claim, some from neglect on their own part in advancing their claims at the proper time, and others from disabilities breaking out subsequent to the close of the war, and which they had considered and hoped might be only of a temporary character. For the purpose of admission to the Home, the same strict evidence is not required as is properly demanded at the pension bureau—it being considered sufficient that a permanent disability exists at the time of making the application, and it is liberally conceded that such disability is consequent upon due and honorable service. It has been apparent to the Board of Managers that some objection might be suggested to the course adopted of providing for men in receipt of these large pensions, at the same time allowing them to be in receipt of their pension, and that, to some extent, evil might follow in the disposition of the money. They have been anxious to guard against this, and in their annual

reports to Congress have referred to the difficulties involved in providing a sufficient and proper remedy, but leaving it to the wisdom of Congress to deal with the subject by legislation as they might deem proper.

RULES TO BE OBSERVED.

The rules to be observed by the inmates are for the perfecting of order and cleanliness, the suppression of bad language, intoxication, bringing liquor into the camp, not to be absent without leave, and the observance of a proper respect for themselves and others. Any man desiring to be absent for a day or two can have a pass for that purpose, on application, and a furlough for thirty, sixty, or ninety days, as may be desired. On obtaining a furlough he is required to pay his transportation to the place he is going, and also to leave a sufficient sum to cover the expenses of his return. Transportation is furnished at half fare. An omnibus leaves the Home for the city of Dayton twice a day, and will accommodate any of the inmates not wishing to walk. A railroad is now in operation from the end of the

Dayton street cars to the headquarters of the Home.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF RULES.

The penalties for the violation of the rules are, being placed on the "dump" for a limited period, which means the doing of light labor around the camp without pay, and for aggravated cases the infliction of a fine. In many cases where fines have been inflicted, subsequent good behavior has obtained their remission.

AVERAGE RATE OF WAGES PAID.

A very large number of inmates are employed, who receive money wages. Sutler's checks are also issued, which will purchase at the Home store any article that can be obtained in a city store, and at the same price. The average rate of wages paid will be quite ten dollars per month:

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

The Board of Managers of the National Homes meet four times every year, at one or other of the homes, for the purpose of transacting the

necessary business relating to them, and the making of such rules and regulations as may be necessary for their good government.

MANAGERS' MEETING AT THE DAYTON HOME

Their 1872 meeting, of the 15th of September, was held at the Dayton Home, and was celebrated as a day of general rejoicing by all the inmates. The managers arriving in the evening, it was determined to mark the event by an ovation to be ever remembered by all who should have the happiness of being present. They arrived at the entrance-lodge at eight o'clock, and were received by the officers of the institution. Entering carriages provided for the purpose, with an escort of three hundred men bearing torches, preceded by the Home band, and with a salute of fifteen guns, they proceeded to headquarters. This handsome building, decorated with the national flag, illuminated by Chinese lanterns, and with myriads of lamps lighting up the broad greensward, presented a scene of splendor and magnificence unequalled in the history of any public institution in the world.

The space in front was filled by a dense crowd, all the inmates that possibly could, having turned out to honor and welcome their distinguished visitors. The enlivening strains of the band filled the soft air of the evening, and the enthusiastic cheers of the veterans sent their echoes to the distant woods. The triumphal arch had been newly wreathed with evergreens; the stars and stripes played gently with the cooling breeze; and from the crown of the arch the golden words of "Love, Gratitude, and Welcome," shone forth in a blaze of light. The front of the principal line of barracks was brilliantly illuminated by Chinese lanterns and lamps, and the great dining-hall and other public buildings vied with each other in the demonstration of their respect and honor. The cultivated lawns, groves, and avenues lent their aid to the beauty of the scene, and the waters of the lake reflected the rays of a thousand suns. The garden, embosomed in its natural dell, remained to complete the picture of surpassing loveliness. The serpentine walks, grottoes, fountains, and borders of the richly variegated beds of flowers were thickly set with

lamps, and varied hues from time to time created thrills of delight and pleasure. The dread implements of war that ornament the garden now stood in graceful repose under the soft illuminated light of peace and joy. Unlike ordinary illuminations of rejoicing, the occasion, the place, and the surrounding circumstances of the Dayton Home illumination make it impossible adequately to describe the scene, of its heart-felt effect. This much, however, may be said, that the dazzling splendor of an eastern romance, or the poet's dream of the regions of fairy land, pale before the reality of beauty there exhibited. Many were there who had witnessed fetes and illuminations in the palaces and palace gardens of the crowned heads of Europe, and they had no hesitation in declaring that the scene at the Home far excelled them all in beauty and splendor; and there is no doubt it is unrivaled in the world's history. The managers, having driven through the principal grounds, addressed the veterans from the platform at head-quarters, expressing their gratification and delight at the perfectness of order and good management, and

also the happiness everywhere apparent; and further, that it was their earnest wish and desire ever to continue and maintain the Home as the happy home of every disabled soldier who is entitled to its benefits.

In thus alluding to the sympathizing efforts of the Board of Managers, and the exertions made by them on behalf of the disabled soldier, it is but justice to say that especial credit is due to Hon. Lewis B. Gunckel, the local manager, who has had the entire charge of construction, and to whom belongs the entire credit for the rapid and economical manner in which the Home has been erected, the grounds laid out and arranged, presenting their present beautiful appearance, and the perfecting of the comforts and conveniences surrounding every department and every inmate of the Home. Nor did the interest thus taken, and exertions used, cease with the establishing and constructing; they have ever been continuing. New barracks are now being erected, uniform in size and appearance with the others, but built of brick; and other buildings are in course of construction, which will, when com-

pleted, enable the Home to accommodate a much larger number of men than at present. Further, the welfare and happiness of every inmate has been his constant study, which justly entitles him to the gratitude of every disabled soldier who has received, or who may be entitled to receive, the benefits of the institution.

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT OF THE HOME.

The internal management of the Home is under the direction of a deputy-governor, secretary, quartermaster, treasurer, adjutant, sergeant-major, and sergeants.

Upon the deputy-governor devolves the important duties of the management and regulation of the Home; and when it is considered that it comprises all nationalities, as soldiers generally are men of the world, with strong passions and varied temperaments, it will be conceded that this is not an easy task. The deputy-governor is Col. E. F. Brown, formerly colonel of the 28th regiment, New York volunteers, and who lost an arm in the service of his country. Uniting the firmness and bravery of a soldier with the grace

and courtesy of the true American gentleman, he so exercises his command, that everything is in perfect harmony; and although the complications of camp-life are various, the daily routine continues as calm and tranquil as the unrippled waters of its beautiful lake.

THE CEMETERY.

The eventful struggle for the life of the nation, the maintaining in their firm integrity the principles of a great republic, and the emancipation of a large portion of the human race from the bondage of slavery,—although of long duration,—came at last to a conclusion. And so it is with all earthly things. Life ends, and the great hereafter begins. The tall flag-staff at head-quarters often tells its mournful tale. The flag flies not proudly to the breeze, but, drooping, hangs at half-mast. Another of its brave defenders is dead, and to the silent grave we will accompany him.

In a grove shaded by tall trees is the cemetery, where nearly four hundred brave men are laid. A chaste and elegant hearse contains the casket,

which is covered with the national flag. Men have been detailed to form a funeral procession; the chaplain is in attendance; the band plays the solemn requiem for the dead; the firing party perform their sad office; and another soul, it is hoped, has been admitted into the eternal home.

Other Branches of the National Homes.

THE EASTERN BRANCH.

This Home is situate near the city of Augusta, in the State of Maine. The establishment consists of four substantial brick buildings, enclosing a square, with a piazza running in and around, and connecting the whole. One of the buildings comprise a well-adapted and commodious hospital, with the necessary offices. In the other buildings are the head-quarters of the institution, library and reading-room, the general dining-hall, and quarters for officers and inmates; the basement being occupied for kitchens, laundry, bath-rooms, &c. Detached from the main buildings, is a well-built brick Music Hall, appropriately fitted

up, and which is also used as a chapel for divine service. In the basement of this building, are the billiard rooms, for the recreation of the inmates. Under the same organization, the same rules and regulations are applicable as in the Dayton Home. The employment of inmates, their physical, and moral welfare, are prominent points in the management. A large farm and garden are cultivated by the inmates, and the produce supplies the requirements of the Home. For some time the main difficulty occurred in the providing a sufficiency of in-door labor, which could be useful, when at a considerable outlay, the necessary machinery was supplied, and a shoe manufactory placed in full operation. This has been attended with complete success. About one fifth of the whole number of inmates are employed in this manufacture, and if not accompanied with a large source of profit, as a money-making concern, the greatest advantages are nevertheless derived, both physically and morally, from the employment it affords to both body and mind; further, by these means, a considerable number of the inmates have been able, from time to time, to

remit sums of money to their relatives at home, in addition to providing themselves with many luxuries and comforts not provided by the institution. Divine services are regularly held, and a resident chaplain is ever ready to help and assist the inmates in their spiritual and moral welfare. Amusements relieve any monotony that might prevail, and the library with its rich treasures, is always available for the intellectual feast. This library comprises three thousand, five hundred volumes of the best works, in all the departments of science, literature, and art, and donations are continually being made. The total number cared for in the Home, during a past year, was seven hundred and ninety-seven. A steam engine conveys the necessary heat to the whole building, and it is well lighted with gas.

THE NORTHWESTERN BRANCH

Is situate about three miles from the city of Milwaukee, in the State of Wisconsin. Its location is one of the most beautiful in the State, surrounded by trees of almost primeval greatness, overlooking the inland sea of Lake Michi-

gan, the city with its eighty-five thousand inhabitants, and a vast extent of country, it forms as an attractive a place as any in the United States. The Home is comprised within a large building three hundred feet in length, with corresponding projecting wings, and a tower rising in the center one hundred and eighty feet high. The building is constructed with the best cream-colored Milwaukee brick, said to be the best in the United States. The first floor contains the offices of the deputy-governor, surgeon, chaplain, treasurer, quarter-master, adjutant, and other officers; also the library and reading-room. The dining-hall is on this floor, and is certainly the largest in the State—being twenty feet high, and will comfortably seat six hundred men at one meal; it is supported by handsome iron pillars, appropriately decorated, and entering from the spacious hall by two large doors. On the second floor, and over the dining-room, is a corresponding hall, used as a chapel for divine service, music hall for concerts, and occasional lectures by eminent lecturers. The second, third and fourth stories are appropriated for sleeping-rooms, are sixteen

feet high, and allotted to twelve men in each room. There is a billiard-room, bowling alley, and other rooms for amusement and recreation; also bath-rooms, post office, telegraph office, store, etc., etc. The farm and garden comprise between four and five hundred acres of the best lands in the State, and, as at Dayton, are abundantly supplied with excellent water; several mineral springs are in the grounds, and add much to the healthfulness of the Home. The cultivation of the farm as a source of profit is perhaps the most successful of either of the homes—sufficient crops being raised to answer all the demands of the Home. The garden and grounds are laid out and preserved with great taste and beauty, and the well-trimmed lawns, with the extensive and umbrageous woods, invite visitors in large numbers, and picnic parties are frequent in the summer season. The number of inmates who received benefit from this Home during a past year, was eight hundred and seventy-one, and comprise the same classification of injury and disease as at the other homes; many are one-legged, one-armed, the blind, and chronic

disease of almost every description known to the medical faculty.

The library contains between two and three thousand' volumes, and the spiritual welfare and moral culture of the inmates are carefully administered and cared for. The building is supplied with a proper temperature of hot air, and lighted with gas made at the Home.

THE SOUTHERN BRANCH.

This Home is the youngest of the four branches of the National Homes, and was selected on account of the greater mildness of the climate, as being more favorable to those suffering from pulmonary complaints, as well as for many chronic and acute diseases; also the colored disabled soldier being equally entitled to the benefit of a home, it was natural to suppose that a southern clime would be better adapted to his requirements. This Home is situate on the historic ground of Hampton, Virginia, not far from Fortress Monroe; it overlooks the magnificent bay called Hampton Roads, the scene of the memorable engagement between the Merrimac

and Monitor, and a short walk from the building leads to the pebbly beach. The soft balmy air, the music of deep waters, with an extensive sea view, combine to make it a most desirable place of residence, and a considerable number of inmates from the other homes have obtained a transfer there. The building was formerly used as a Ladies' Educational College, and is well adapted for its present purpose. The total number that received treatment during a past year was five hundred and thirty-eight, of which upwards of one hundred were colored men—being by far the largest number of this class in any of the homes—there being but few seeking admission to the other homes. The employment of inmates is here principally confined to the requirements of the inmates themselves, and the cultivation of a large garden for use and beauty. A resident surgeon attends to the physical ailments, and occasional divine services are held in the reading-room, there not being a resident chaplain at this Home. The library contains between four and five hundred volumes. White and colored men are here united with the same

unanimity of good feeling between them as existed when serving together in the same field.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

These hospitals and homes are the first ever established on the western continent, and compare favorably with their models in Europe—the Hotel des Invalides, in Paris, and Greenwich Hospital, England. The grandeur and magnificence of these buildings are apparent, and the feelings of interest created considerable, whilst looking upon a remnant of the grand army of the great Napoleon, and the old veterans of naval engagements, the greatest the world ever knew; but they fail to convey the impression of a home, with the surrounding influences of its usefulness and enjoyments that always endear men to it. These institutions, flourishing, therefore, as they do, in their greatness and beauty, present not only to the American people, but to Europe and the civilized world, a lasting monument of the majesty, power, and love of a nation who, whilst achieving a victory over the enemy at home that

sought its destruction, forget not those by whom that victory was won and maintained.

It appears by the report of the Board of Managers for the year 1871, that during that year, four thousand, seven hundred and forty-one disabled soldiers were cared for, and received treatment in the four National Homes, being an increase of five hundred and forty-seven over the previous year, and it was then anticipated that an increase (notwithstanding the deaths), might continue for a few years yet to come; this is accounted for by the fact, that at the termination of the war, large numbers returned to their homes and previous occupations, establishing a fact, unparalleled in the history of any wars, of men sheathing the sword and laying aside the musket, to take upon themselves former duties and exertions, with impaired and weakened constitutions, resulting in the breaking out of old diseases and disabilities, rendering them unable to maintain themselves.

It also appears by the same report, that of this total number, one thousand, six hundred and fifty-nine were native born Americans, and two

thousand, six hundred and fifty-one of foreign birth. The following are the foreign nationalities:—Ireland, 1,189; Germany, 918; England, 216; Scotland, 83; Wales, 4; France, 57; Denmark, 4; Norway, 12; Italy, 1; Poland, 5; Russia, 1; Switzerland, 51; Sweden, 4; Spain, 1; Australia, 1; West India, 3; Central America, 1.

During the year 1871, the deaths in the four homes were 149, of which 58 were from consumption. It is to be remarked, that from the organization of the homes, to the present time, not a single case of a malarious, or epidemic nature, has occurred in any of the homes, thus proving the care taken in the selection and providing the most healthy and salubrious locations, and perfectness of the order and arrangements in all the homes. The Board of Managers also report that the cost of providing and maintaining the four homes for a past year, was four hundred and thirty-one thousand and forty-seven dollars, and the amount of earnings is placed at one hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars.

The active and open hostilities of the war referred to in the foregoing pages commenced in

April, 1861, and between that time and May, 1865, when the war may be said to have terminated, two millions and a half of men were enrolled as soldiers for service in the armies of the Union. Of these, one million and a half actually participated in its battles; fifty thousand fell dead on its battle fields; over two hundred thousand died of wounds and disease in hospitals, and forty thousand died in the prisons of the enemy. Of the surviving men, the number seeking the shelter and assistance of the National Homes, may, therefore, be considered comparatively small; and it has to be considered that the largest number of inmates are of foreign nationality, without the means or the power to provide themselves with any other home.

The thrilling events of the four years' war, have been fully dealt with by the historians, and it is only necessary to refer to the fact, that the ranks of these immense armies were supplied from all the peaceful walks of daily life; by men who volunteered their services in support of a principle which declared the right of all men to be free, and to break forever the bonds that en-

chained the slave; also that a Union of States should be preserved as a union of strength, in advancing and maintaining the progress of the great march of universal peace and prosperity.

Whilst the pages of ancient and European history abound with the soul-stirring records of honors bestowed upon the returned soldier, of crosses of the legion of honor, and proud memorials to be worn on the manly breast, it remained for the great American Nation to breathe forth her impulses of humanity, charity, and gratitude, in the substantial mark of administering to the necessities of the brave and deserving.