

ITEMS—GENERAL AND LOCAL.

Surgeon JONATHAN LETTERMAN, U. S. A., Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac, has been relieved at his special request. Surgeon THOMAS A. MCPARLIN, U. S. A., formerly Medical Director under Gen'l Pope, during his campaign in Virginia, and now Medical Director of Hospitals at Annapolis, Md., succeeds him. Surg. CHAS. SUNDERLAND, formerly Medical Director of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina and now member of the retiring board convened at Wilmington, Del., will relieve Surgeon MCPARLIN.

There is very little war news. Every quarter is represented to be quiet, and most of the army is going into winter quarters. Apart from occasional Cavalry skirmishes nothing of interest has occurred in the past week. The cold weather affords a convenient time to sum up the past and prepare for the future. Officers and men would rather sit around blazing fires than handle cold steel. During this happy interval many changes no doubt will take place—some for the better and some for the worse; but no man will know his fate or destination till the curtain rises.

The usual trips of the regular line of Baltimore Steamboats have been interrupted the past week, on account of ice in the Patapsco river. The Quartermaster's Steamer Wawaset, started for Baltimore on Tuesday, but when she arrived at the mouth of the Patapsco river finding the ice such an impediment, she was compelled to return to her moorings at this Hospital. On account of this interruption of the regular line, Adams Express Co. has failed to forward goods, this being the only way of transportation now to which the Company avails itself. This interruption also cuts off a large supply of all kinds of goods which have been usually transported in that way.

The "Ancient City" of Annapolis on the eve was, and since the convention of the Legislature, has been full to repletion. All the private boarding houses and hotels are crowded to their utmost capacity. Scarcely a room of any size can be obtained for any consideration.

This will be one of the most important Legislatures ever convened in Maryland. The Baltimore American of Nov. 5th, 1863, said:—"Maryland yesterday emphatically proclaimed its future a Free State. A Legislature largely in favor of Emancipation has been elected—and three at least of the five Congressmen are avowed Emancipationists." This will be the principal topic before it, at least at the beginning of the session. The large number of members in attendance at the opening of the session will prevent any delay or interruption in the usual preliminary business, and it is more than likely the ball will be opened at once.

The weather has been quite cold for the past week. Snow fell to the depth of two or three inches on Tuesday, and the Severn took upon its bosom a coating of thin ice. Wild fowls, which at this season are usually plentiful on the Severn and contiguous rivers have not yet made their appearance in any considerable numbers. On this account the market has not its usual supply.—We have no doubt this will be a disappointment as well to sportsmen, as to those who are fond of this species of game, whether citizen or stranger.

Oysters are plentiful and cheap; no material interruption has occurred to the usual trade.

The market, generally speaking, is bare. The adjoining country scarcely affords product sufficient for the demand. A great deal of all kinds of provisions is brought from Baltimore and other cities. The markets are usually so small, that after 7 o'clock in the morning, nothing is left to purchase. For this reason buyers are compelled to go early, or they get nothing. It is emphatically here that "the early bird catches the worm."

LATEST.—Surgeon B. A. VANDERKIEFT, U. S. Vols., in charge of Division No. 1, has been appointed, temporarily, Medical Director of Hospitals at Annapolis, and will relieve Surgeon T. A. MCPARLIN, U. S. A., previous to the assumption of the duties of the office by Surgeon SUNDERLAND, U. S. A.

Surgeon MCPARLIN leaves on Monday.

The Crutch.

Some, on the first appearance of our paper may not like the name which we have selected for it. It is true the word Crutch is not very euphonic or suggestive of anything that will edify or interest the reader. But let it be remembered that our paper is entirely devoted to the interest of the soldiers in the Hospitals. It claims to be simply a record of Hospital news. We might have selected another name. Many others were suggested; but none to us seemed so expressive of the design intended in the issue of this weekly sheet, as the title chosen. A Crutch certainly in itself is not indicative of any great things. It suggests lameness, disability, and has no beauty that it should attract attention. Nevertheless it is useful; this is better than merely ornamental.—Think of it as a helper and supporter to the weak and disabled. We trust it will meet with favor among the friends of the soldier and be the means of giving much valuable information, from week to week, concerning the Hospitals at this post. Having this object in view may we not expect that the friends of our brave, suffering soldiers will send in their subscriptions?

From the Knapsack.

Hickory, pickery, my black hen,
Strong butter for supper again,
Bad eggs, one, and sometimes two,
What will a poor fellow on low diet do?

Why is the Knapsack the most spiritual paper of the day? Because it is supervised by angelic hands—and the Devil has nothing to do with the printing.

Guess what a sick man was heard saying to his medicine? Answer—Oh! Pil-grim stranger, why art thou here?

Why is a homesick Soldier like a sect of the Jews? Because he is sad you see, (Sadducee.)

List of Patients Admitted from Flag-of-Truce Boat, Dec. 29th, 1863.

Hospital, Division No. I.

B. A. VANDERKIEFT, SURGEON IN CHARGE.

- Robert K Ewart, Co M, 6th U S Cavalry.
- Daniel Gallager, Co L, 6th U S Cavalry.
- Wm M Wheaton, Co D, 1st Vermont Cavalry.
- Chas F Pope, Co B, 15th Mass.
- H T Duryea, Co M, 2d N Y Cavalry.
- Henry C Thurston, Co L, 10th N Y Cavalry.
- F Easterly, Co I, 154th N Y.
- Corp James Long, Co K, 2d Pennsylvania Cavalry.
- Jeremiah Perry, 6th Penn Bat.
- William C Walker, Co I, 27th Penn.
- Sergt W A McMillan, Co I, 140th Penn.
- Henry E Davis, Co B, 1st N J Art.
- Fred Hall, Co B, 5th Mich.
- C O Bennett, Co F, 5th Mich.
- G W Fish, Co L, 5th Mich Cav.
- James L Linn, Co C, 6th Iowa.
- H L Hill, Co B, 3d Ill.
- John R Hunt, Co B, 1st Del.
- William Keller, Co F, 2d Tenn.
- R B Darling, Co F, 2d E Tenn.
- Sergt William Workman, Co B, 4th Missouri Cav.
- M Kallowell, Co E 1st Va.

Hospital, Division No. II.

G. B. PARKER, SURGEON IN CHARGE.

- William H Evans, Co G, 6th U S Cav.
- P Harrington, Co E, 8th N J Vols.
- William Sloan, Co I, 12th N J Vol.
- J Morrell, Co H, 9th Maryland Vol.
- William Morrell, Co F, 9th Md Vol.
- M Heckola, Co E, 4th Missouri Cav.
- J Edwards, Co F, 1st Del Vol.
- R Thompson, Co E, 82 N Y Vol.
- Sergt S D Woodford, Co I, 154th N Y Vols.
- Corp P Baxter, Co I, 154th N Y Vols.
- J Gill, Co I, 26th Penn Vol.
- Jacob Nees, Co D, 150th Penn Vols.

Deaths since January 1, 1864.

Division No. 1.

- William Lane, Private, 113th Ohio Volunteers.
- Austin C. Howard, Private, 38th Indiana Vols.

Division No. 2.

- Henry Apsley, Private, 18th Connecticut Vols.

From the Richmond Sentinel, Dec. 28.

Home Industry.

As the time is at hand when families are making their plans and preparations for the ensuing year, we deem it appropriate to offer a suggestion. Much more than heretofore should housekeepers and farmers make their arrangements for meeting all their wants by home industry and enterprise.

It will not do to rely on importations. Already the blockade has closed all our Atlantic ports except Wilmington; and twenty grim steamers lie as watchers off the mouth of the Cape Fear, like so many grimalkins at a mouse-hole. We shall have no reason to be disappointed or surprised if the port of Wilmington should be closed ere many months. Nor must we rely on our factories. Look how the prices of their products have already ascended until they have become unobtainable by the multitude. This is all according to "the laws of trade" we are told, and therefore to be approved and applauded; but a protection must be found, and it is to be found in home production. Besides, the number of these mills has been reduced by fire, and the machinery of those that remain will not last forever.

A hundred reasons combine to urge upon every family to look to its own resources. The hand-card and the hand-loom and the spinning-wheel, whose music is sweeter far than that of the piano, should be found everywhere. All who can should grow their patches of flax and cotton. All should have sheep, if but a few. Our forests furnish dyes as various and as bright as the tints that make their foliage so glorious at "the turn of the leaf." With these materials, there is no reason why our ladies should not be clad in beautiful apparel, the product of their own industry and taste; while they may clothe their husbands and sons fine enough for kings.—There is not a farmer's wife who may not easily provide clothing for all her servants, and make some to sell besides.

And how much more independent and happy should we all be, if thus providing for ourselves. A fig for blockades, we might well exclaim; nor would be any longer exposed to the extortioner's grip. And those eventualities of the future to which we have alluded would bring no terror to us. Earnestly, therefore, do we advise every one to use every means and make every arrangement in his power to provide for the clothing of his family from his own resources, and thus make himself independent of manufacturers and blockade runners.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 391.

Commanders of Department are authorized to grant furloughs to enlisted men in the General Hospitals within the limits of their command, upon the approval of the Medical Director, or Chief Medical Officer. The number allowed to be absent at one time, to be limited to five (5) per cent, and the period not to exceed thirty (30) days, and to be graduated according to the distance of the applicant from his home. The good conduct of the applicant, to be made the rule of the Medical Officers in recommending the furloughs.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

December 30, 1863.

COMMANDING GENERAL:—By direction of the Secretary of War, General Orders No. 391 will be amended by substituting twenty (20) per cent for five (5) per cent, for the number of enlisted men in General Hospital to whom Department Commanders are authorized to grant furloughs at one time.

E. D. TOWNSEND,

A. A. General.

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION is an organization which has in view, the comfort and welfare of the Soldiers in all parts of our vast army, and in the various Hospitals.

The General Office is No. 11 Bank St., Philadelphia.

GEO. H. STUART, Chairman.

JOS. PATERSON, Treasurer.

REV. W. E. BOARDMAN, Secretary.

The work of the Commission at Annapolis is in charge of Rev. I. O. SLOAN, Division Hospital No. 1. Rev. Mr. Bent and Rev. Mr. Merrill at Camp Parole.

ANNAPOLIS & ELKRIDGE R. R.

CHANGE OF HOUR TO
6, 00 A. M. AND 2, 30 P. M.

ON AND AFTER WEDNESDAY, THE 6TH OF JAN., 1864, the Passenger Trains will leave Annapolis at 6 00 A. M., and 2 30 P. M., until further notice.

TICKETS to New York, Philadelphia and the West for sale at this office.

Soldiers' Tickets for the West via B. & O. R. R. for sale here. By Order, GEORGE M. DUVALL, Sec'y., Jan. 6, 1864.