
American Red Cross base hospital no. 38 in the world war. United States army base hospital no. 38, organized under the auspices of the Jefferson Medical College and Hospital, stationed at Nantes, France, 1918-1919, by W. M. L. Coplin.

American Red Cross Base Hospital No. 38

2-1923

American Red Cross Base Hospital No. 38 in the World War - VI: The Divisions

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VI

THE DIVISIONS

THEORETICALLY, and to a degree, practically, a Base Hospital embraced three services — the Medical, the Surgical, and the Laboratory; these were called “Divisions.” To these properly should be added the nursing organization. But the general divisional designation failed to make obvious most important specialties, frequently functioning almost independently although supposed to be subordinate integrals of one of the three chief services indicated. Such highly important activities as the X-ray work which, although subordinate to one division, gave to all, so also the Neurologic, Ophthalmologic, Orthopedic, Genito-urinary, Laryngologic, Dental and other specialties, gave richly to every demand; only briefly can they be mentioned, the devotion of the respective officers, their co-operative activities and the good they accomplished will never be adequately recorded. In the midst of periods of great stress, as when hospital trains came in, or during the influenza epidemic, special detail was forgotten and universal service rendered wholeheartedly; at the base and up at the front, Ophthalmologists, Laryngologists, Dentists and

other highly trained specialists administered anesthetics; whatever may have been a professional assignment, the first and most pressing obligation—that *noblesse oblige* of all workers—was to do what best contributed to the welfare of the stricken soldier.