

and some are chosen from the ranks of the army to be specially trained to perform many of those offices for the sick which in an ordinary Hospital are delegated to the Nurses. Here the Nurses, or rather the Nursing Sisters, have control over these men; each lady having under her special care and superintendence about eight wards." But let us take a walk through the Hospital."

We turned into a short passage in close proximity to the rooms we had just left. Out of this passage open the cubicles and rooms set apart for the Nursing Sisters. The former command a side view of the Water, the latter do not; so the ladies have the difficult choice to make between a view and a cubicle; or no view and an absolutely separate room. All without exception were tastefully arranged; and some in almost every detail—in the drapery, the pictures, and the quaint oriental ornaments—betrayed the fact that their owners had been on foreign service.

Having reached the great corridor stretching the whole length of the building Miss Norman stopped to explain the construction.

"This is the main block, and it consists of a centre with two wings; the whole building is three stories high. On each floor is a corridor similar to this, each being rather more than a quarter of a mile long; so you see "said my guide in parenthesis" I have plenty of exercise in the course of a day. The centre is reserved for offices and invalid officers' quarters, for the Sisters and myself, and for similar apartments. Into these corridors, which by the way I believe to be the longest in the world, all the wards open, and they are, as you will notice, as well and profusely glassed in as any greenhouse; in the summer they are open wide; in the winter discretion is used, but at all times every ray of sunshine possible is caught."

We passed on. All the corridors have on one side the same picture with a few variations and side lights, the whole bathed in a shower of sunshine which would make even prosaic bricks interesting. Within, the perspective is relieved by the patients in their light blue suits, by an officer in his war paint, or by an occasional Sister in her pretty costume consisting of a grey serge gown, white apron, cuffs, and collar, unique bright red little cape just covering her shoulders, and pretty white head dress arranged in somewhat Flemish style.

I particularly remarked the latter to my companion. "Those," she replied, "have not long been in use here, hitherto the caps with strings for

tying beneath the chin were used. What you see now are invariably worn on foreign service, and in time of war they are of inestimable usefulness. When opened out they are like a soft muslin handkerchief, and are consequently easy for the Nurse herself to wash; the ironing, or rather the smoothing, is merely a matter of sitting on them. You know that in time of war washing is often a matter of difficulty." "We would like to see round your wards, Sister." We found ourselves in a tiny room containing a kitchen range, barrack table, that is one the flat part of which fits into a pair of trestles, a fixed tap and basin, and a huge cupboard containing medicines, linen, blankets, bandages, in fact, all the odds and ends necessary for the care of the sick.

One end of each ward opens on to the corridor; very few patients were in bed, "most of them," said the Sister, "are in the grounds." One poor young fellow wearily opened his eyes as we passed through; he was suffering from extreme lassitude consequent on a fever he had had in Malta. Another was clearly consumptive, and so on. Several fully dressed were lying on their beds "enjoying their afternoon siesta," a habit which life in the tropics soon breeds. Those beds not in use were carefully stripped, as in a barrack room, the mattress turned up, and the blankets and sheets very carefully folded, and rolled in the quilt at the foot of the bed. One ward, intended for eye cases, was softly darkened by blue glass being inserted into the windows, instead of the ordinary transparent kind. In the middle of all the wards is the same kind of barrack table with forms down the side. At length we arrived at the end of the building and passed into another kitchen, in the window of which primroses were flowering with rank luxuriance. It commanded a view chiefly of the grounds, whilst away to the right could be seen a detached brick building half covered with creepers, and surrounded by bushes and trees—the mess-house of the officers of the medical staff, Miss Norman informed me.

Returning to the centre of the building my guide directed my attention to a part of the Hospital practically detached from the main block, explaining that that was where the medical orderlies lived with their wives; whilst away beyond that were a number of cottages still in the grounds, but not visible from the window, which were put at the service of the wives and families of those patients who were detained in Hospital. We then passed through the gallery of the museum, in which the officers of the army take very considerable interest,

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