

In the well-stocked storeroom one noticed, amongst other things, a row of copper coalscuttles which would be the envy of many a ward sister in a civil hospital. They are army "regulation," and the army does not easily change.

The theatre and its annexes are quite new. Both the daylight and the artificial light, the latter supplied by electricity, leave nothing to be desired. Never surely was a better arrangement of light provided over any operating table.

At the bottom of the door is a brass fixture in which the toes can be inserted, making it quite unnecessary to touch the door when opening it.

The hospital at present contains 130 beds, of which, on the occasion of my visit some 64 were occupied. The nursing staff consists of the Matron (Sister Willes), two Sisters of the Regular Military Nursing Service, four of the Reserve, and eight members of a Voluntary Aid Detachment. These probationers are on their trial, as they are the first to come under the new regulations for members of Voluntary Aid Detachments serving in Military Hospitals. They live in the hospital, and if they pass through their month's probation satisfactorily, will sign an agreement to serve for a year.

In the grounds surrounding the hospital four additional huts, each to hold 25 patients, are being erected, which will bring the number of beds up to 230.

There, also, convalescents are able to enjoy the bracing air of Hampstead, and the admiration of the neighbourhood, and Mr. Thomas Atkins is nothing loth to converse with those who linger in the road, which runs just below, to "pass the time of day" with the men who are "heroes all."

M. B.

### FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Last week we notified the needs of Sister Workman for her patients, and expressed the hope that such gifts might find their way to the office of this JOURNAL. We have now pleasure in reporting that the very articles required (amongst them the 6 dressing gowns) were, by some psychological wave, wafted into the repository of the French Relief Fund whilst *our paragraph was in the press*. That they were sent by a lady we knew many years ago (Miss Gilstrap, of Winthorpe-on-Trent) makes the coincidence (if such it was) the more extraordinary. Anyway, through Lady Barclay, the dressing gowns, ward slippers, body-belts, and pyjama suits, kindly given by Miss Gilstrap, with sheets, old linen, socks, and handkerchiefs, have been sent to Sister Workman. The truth is, the needs of an army in the field are colossal, and gifts sent to 431, Oxford Street, London, W., can always be forwarded where they are most welcome. We hear that the French soldiers are delighted with gifts from England, knowing full well they are sent in gratitude, and with admiration, for their

wonderful power of endurance of every physical pain and discomfort.

We acknowledge with thanks eight towels from Sister Thompson, R.N.S., and six pillow cases and three sheets from Mrs. Woodfall.

Mrs. Grant, mother of Sister Grant, R.N.S., has kindly sent 11 pairs of woollen socks, 2 pairs mittens, 23 helmets. "God's blessing go with them," she writes. We feel sure it does, as the following letter from the Médecin-Chef, Ambulance 14, testifies:—"Permettez moi de vous remercier bien vivement des deux caisses de lingerie et lainages remit de votre part par Miss Hanning. Les soldats retournant au front seront très heureux et très touchés quand Miss Hanning les leur remettra.

"J'apprécie hautement le devouement et le savoir des Nurses Anglaises attachées a mon ambulance et dont je ne saurais trop faire l'éloge, &c."

Sister Sutton writes from Bergues that the splendid consignment of stores and clothes have arrived from the *Croix Rouge Française* in London, promised to us by the Vicomtesse de la Panouse, the President, a few weeks ago. "Of course, everything was welcomed by the officials. . . and we are making the place look quite different and the people also. . . . You will be pleased to hear that some of the higher officials came to see the hospital Jeanne d'Arc yesterday and remarked on the cleanliness and smartness (?) of the wards, saying: 'One can see where the English nurses are.' This is just tremendous for a French officer to say to an English nurse. . . . Our position has wonderfully improved within the past month—that is, looking from our starting-point to where we are now."

It is probable that Sister A. R. Cargill will have charge as Directrice of the large new Fever Hospital at Rouen, to be opened at an early date. Fifty British nurses have been requisitioned for it.

Miss J. W. Bailey, certificated Kensington Infirmary, and Miss M. Scott Macdonald, certificated District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne, left London for Bordeaux on Thursday, and on April 1st eight more nurses will go to Paris en route for Bordeaux and Rouen.

When called on to a platform in a French Military Hospital to lead our National Anthem, alas! the English Sisters did not know the words. We have since sent them a copy and would now ask them to add the following verse, written by Nesta Blennerhassett, when singing our Anthem:—

God bless our splendid men,  
Send them safe home again,  
God save our men.  
Keep them victorious,  
Patient, and chivalrous;  
They are so dear to us.  
God save our men.

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