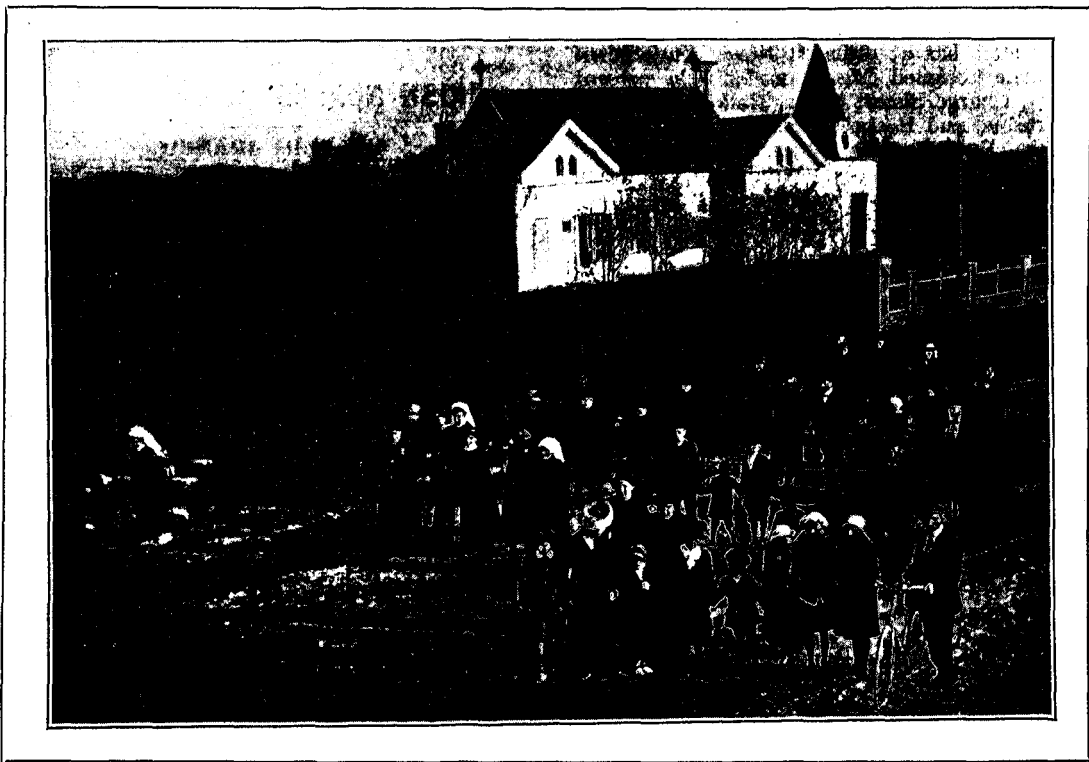


THE HÔPITAL MILITAIRE FORT MAHON.

The Hôpital Militaire at Fort Mahon was started in October last. It was at first hoped that it might have proved of use, in part at least, to our own men, some of whom have from time to time been amongst the patients; but it soon appeared that, owing to its position and its greater proximity to the French front, it would prove much more accessible to our Allies; and, thanks to the energy and resource shown by Dr. Maurice Renton, Chief Medical Officer, the hospital was soon accepted and fully recognised by the French military authorities, who have from

line often glowed with their reflected fire—a constant reminder (if one were needed) of the deadly work going on so near at hand, whose terrible effects were always before us in the shattered bodies and dreadful wounds of so many of our patients. It is impossible to speak too highly of the French soldiers as patients, and of their gratitude, courage and cheerfulness; they are on the most excellent terms with their English nurses, whose services they much appreciate, and whenever there are English and French patients together the "entente" between them is quite ideal, and it seems as if each can contribute to the other something valuable to both, which makes



RETURNING FROM MASS, HÔPITAL MILITAIRE, FORT MAHON, SOMME.

time to time expressed the highest appreciation of the work done there—an appreciation shown in a still more practical manner by the convoys of serious and urgent stretcher cases which soon filled the wards and fully occupied both medical and nursing staff.

The hospital contains 105 beds, and in addition a château nearer the front was later equipped with 35 beds, and used as a clearing hospital where very bad cases straight from the trenches were treated first and afterwards conveyed to Fort Mahon in the ambulances, of which a considerable number are attached to the hospital. At this château the guns could be clearly heard during most of the day, and at night also, when the sky-

one wish that they could oftener be together during illness and convalescence, as they so often are in warfare.

Fort Mahon is very ideally situated, and the bracing sea air and sunny stretch of firm sands, where convalescent patients can walk and sit, are in themselves an important factor towards recovery.

The Curé of the little village church acts as chaplain to the French soldiers, and is tireless in his work amongst them.

Deaths in proportion have been few on the whole, but the row of simple wooden crosses in the shady cemetery six miles away at Quend testifies to some of the brave lives laid down and added to the roll of imperishable glory.

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