

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

PARKSIDE ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL, RAVENS COURT PARK, HAMMERSMITH.

In any kind of weather this, the newest of auxiliary war hospitals, would have been attractive, but on a warm summer day, with the breath of the flowers sweetening the air, and the bright sunlight making everything look cheerful, the impression left on the mind of the visitor was particularly pleasant. It stands in two acres of ground and is approached by a shady avenue of beautiful old sycamore trees. It is a handsome, well-built, commodious house, admirably adapted to its present purpose. The need of a hospital of this sort for officers has long been felt; the Infirmary in Ducane Road is used for the accommodation of men only, requiring orthopædic treatment. It seems that it was only necessary to mention the fact to the Mayor of the Borough (Alderman H. Foreman, O.B.E., J.P.) for the idea to materialise. It is owing to his great generosity and that of Mrs. Foreman that Parkside has been acquired, redecorated and furnished to accommodate thirty officers besides the staff. No expense has been spared in making it as cheerful, cosy and comfortable as money plus a kind heart could make it. There may be hospitals as nice, but it is certain there could not be any *nicer*.

There is uniformity without monotony. Polished floors everywhere; a mat of artistic colouring beside each bed, white embroidered coverlet, with an eiderdown quilt on each bed, and each of a different coloured silk. Shot silk appeared to be the favourite. White-painted lockers with glass tops, upon each of which stands an electric lamp with a shade of the same colour and material as the quilt. Harmony and proportion spell art, and this is evident everywhere, and is, we were told, the taste of the Mayoress. The walls are distempred in a soft shade of grey. The architect is to be congratulated upon the liberal provision of window space; had he designed the house for the purpose he could not have done better.

The lavatory and bathroom accommodation is abundant, also sluices for bedpans, &c.

A winter garden or conservatory is used as a lounge and smoke room. There is a large and handsomely furnished dining room for the officers on the ground floor, and the same in the basement for the V.A.D. staff. The resident staff consists of the Matron, Miss Dible, and one Sister; also the cook. Thirty-six V.A.D.s come in in three shifts of twelve. These as well as the Commandant are, of course, non-resident.

The sitting room for the officers is as comfortable as the rest of the house. The *pièce de résistance* there is a splendid new Grafonola, the gift of Messrs. Watsons, Sons & Room. There is a good-sized vegetable garden, which is not the least of the many attractions of the hospital.

We are greatly indebted to Miss Dible for her courtesy in showing us this admirable hospital.

Many generous people have given handsome subscriptions, but many more would be gratefully accepted.

The hospital was opened on Thursday, July 25th, by Mrs. Hayes Fisher, accompanied by the Right Hon. W. Hayes Fisher, President of the Local Government Board.

B. K.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

WHAT THE "TIMES" THINKS OF OUR WORK AND POLICY.

"The French Flag Nursing Corps, which has supplied from 100 to 200 of the best trained British nurses for French Army hospitals, since 1914, came into prominence in the recent retreat from the Chemin des Dames, where they gave an example of their mettle by sticking to their posts till all the wounded were evacuated, and only escaped as the Germans entered the hospitals. These British women, scattered in twos and threes in great military hospitals throughout France, have raised the whole standard of nursing and made thousands of friends for us—friends who will not forget."

The good, kind "Henriette," *femme de ménage* at Verneuil, is now a refugee in Savoy. She was in attendance on the Sisters at the old Chateau to the last day when the retreat began. A Sister writes:—"Poor girl, she was very good to us, and has lost everything. Would it be possible to send her a gift of clothing or any help; they are glad of such gifts. I send you her address." Poor Henriette! Well we remember her and the lovely *déjeuner* she prepared for us the happy day we visited the Sisters in their romantic surroundings. Very happy we should be to forward her a gift of clothing, if any kind friend will help to make up a parcel. We could do with a tidy coat and skirt, two pairs of warm stockings, a good pair of boots, a warm petticoat, underlinen, and some tidy aprons, and any useful additions. "Henriette" is tall and stout and requires garments of ample proportions. It would be nice to send her a parcel from "Friends in England" now she is far from her home. Let us hope it may not be for long; but, alas! we know the devastation of the fair land of France, where the hoof of the Hun has passed. Please address gifts to the Editor, 431, Oxford Street, London W., marked "For Henriette."

A Sister in the war zone writes:—"We are having very bad nights, as we have nightly visits from the Boches. We get big rushes of wounded when the brutes have gone. . . . Nearly all our windows have gone, and some of our wounded have been cut with the falling glass. My flat has its disadvantages, so I lie down on any spare bed in the hospital, dressed of course. . . . The hospital where we are working was a mill before the war."

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