

AMERICAN RED CROSS HOSPITAL, TOTTENHAM.

The American Hospital, which has been established in the buildings of the M.A.B. Fever Hospital, known as the North Eastern Hospital, Tottenham, is now in full swing—at least so far as present capacity allows. The equipment of the former hospital, however, provided only for a thousand patients, and the present one eventually will accommodate three thousand—so that much strenuous effort is still needed before the additions can be completed. Those who are acquainted with M.A.B. institutions will be aware that their buildings maintain a high standard of efficiency, and the American staff now in occupation fully appreciate the nucleus which it is their part to develop to three times its original size. Though their occupation is still counted in weeks, the necessary work is in evident progress, and already the spacious tennis court is marked out for a staff mess room of formidable dimensions and the necessary operating theatre is in process of making in another part of the building. In addition to these, huts are to be erected to provide for the full complement of beds.

The Matron of this busy colony of buildings is Miss Laura A. Beecroft. She was trained at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburg. For eight years she was Superintendent of the Minnequar Hospital, Pueblo, Colorado. She was a member of the Colorado State Registration Examining Board for Nurses. This appointment is made by the Governor for five years, and Miss Beecroft was appointed a second time—ten years in all. She was also an Army Nurse for three years in the Spanish-American War.

The unit she has brought over is known as the Denver Unit (Colorado) Base Hospital 29. It has been fully equipped by the Denver Red Cross Chapter at a cost of 78,000 dollars. So far, however, none of its equipment has arrived in England, and the Matron awaits its perfect and

complete machinery with some impatience. Its medical staff are members of Denver University; and the nurses, numbering one hundred, are all graduates of Colorado State. In addition, there are 150 corps men drawn from the best families in Denver. These men correspond to our orderlies, and do the needful work in ward, kitchen, office and ambulance. The nurses are of one grade, and with the exception of one head nurse to each ward all work on equal terms. The uniform of matrons and nursing staff shows little variation, and is designed from a practical and economical point of view. The dresses are of grey linen

with aprons made without waist-bands, and of a pattern easily laundered. The caps are of a modified "Sister Dora" type, with the Red Cross in the centre of the band. The wide turnover collars give a picturesque finish to the whole. Every nurse is provided by the Red Cross with a grey sweater, and we were reminded of the touch of autumn in the air by many of their number availing themselves of their comfort. Very necessary, too, when one remembers the long open-sided corridors.

Though it was a busy time in the morning on the occasion of our visit Miss Beecroft received us with great kindness and courtesy, and personally showed us the many interesting features of the hospital.

The nursing staff are enjoying the many domestic privileges which the M.A.B. had installed for their own staff—separate bedrooms, large and numerous bathrooms, comfortable sitting and mess rooms. The cubicles hitherto assigned to the domestic

staff are now earmarked for sick nurses. One hundred and fifty beds are told off for this purpose, as all sick nurses from the base hospitals are to be drafted here. We observed in the nurses' rooms that they had no use for bolsters, and these British articles were dressed up in ornamental coverings and were serving as chair cushions.

The kitchen is in charge of a lady dietitian, who is a graduate of Columbia University; they have also a skilled chef, and the food is pronounced "excellent." Here we noticed the "Corps"



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