

TERRITORIAL HOSPITALS.

THE 5TH SOUTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The 5th Southern General Hospital has been mobilized in the Girls' Secondary School, Fawcett Road, Southsea, and in the Portsmouth Royal Hospital, and the Milton Infirmary. The nursing staff are billeted in the neighbourhood, as there is no sleeping accommodation for them in the building.

The Surgeon-in-Charge is Colonel Kyffin, R.A.M.C., a well-known and popular medical practitioner in Gosport, and the Matron, Miss K. A. Smith, Matron of the West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone, the Principal Matron being Miss Alcock, Matron of the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth.

At the present time the patients include not only British and Belgian but German wounded, among whom are a number of the Prussian Guard.

I learnt from the Matron that a number of the cases are very serious. Some of the spinal cases arrive with bad bedsores, which are extremely difficult to cure.

The great central hall of the school has been arranged as a large ward with four rows of beds, two arranged along the walls as in an ordinary hospital ward, and two up the middle, back to back, with an intervening space.

The width of the ward is so great that there is ample room for this arrangement. The German patients are in a separate ward under guard, their officers being amongst the patients allocated to the Portsmouth Royal Hospital.

On the level of the floor above, a wide gallery runs round the great ward on all four sides. The Matron's quarters are close to this gallery, and from this vantage point she can easily observe all that is going on. The importance of keeping complete control over all having access to the gallery will be readily appreciated,

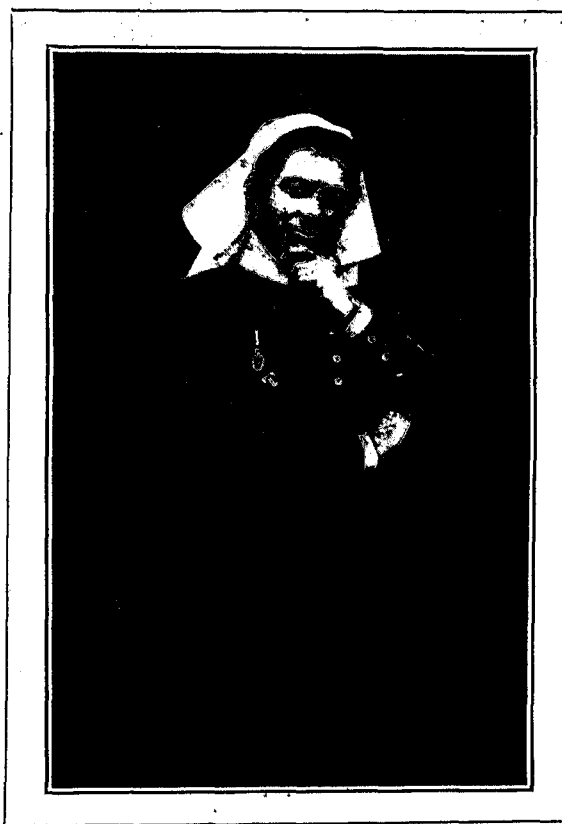
as the whole of the ward is overlooked from it. Opening on to the gallery are numerous small wards, which are used for British and Belgian officers, and also the operating theatre, which has been excellently planned and fitted. Divisions, consisting of partitions of asbestos set in wooden frames, have been erected to form anaesthetic and sterilizing rooms, leaving the theatre proper still spacious enough to allow of two operating tables being used at once, if necessary.

The annexes on this floor are very well arranged, and the instalment of the necessary

pipes for new bathrooms and lavatories has been effected with the least possible disturbance to the structure by the ingenious and simple expedient of laying a second floor. One main pipe has been brought in, and all the necessary pipes are connected with this, and are laid over the true floor and under the temporary one. It is a device to be commended to the attention of those who have to convert public buildings into temporary hospitals, and who wish to do as little damage as possible in the process.

In visiting the Territorial Hospitals organized in various parts of the country in buildings not intended for the purpose, one is constantly impressed with the way in which the necessary alterations have been accom-

plished and the excellence of the results achieved, and one rejoices that the Territorial hospitals, with their 12,000 beds, and their highly trained nursing staffs, were arranged for in time of peace, and so at the disposal of the War Office, and capable of expansion, moreover, to meet the needs of the sick and wounded in the present war, a use not originally contemplated, but nevertheless urgent. In these days, when nursing standards are so belittled, one can point to the Territorial Hospitals as maintaining the three years' term of training.



MISS K. A. SMITH,
Matron, 5th Southern General Hospital.

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