

## Dedisham Convalescent Nursery School.

VERY KINDLY DRIVEN in her car by the Secretary, Miss C. N. Newbery, through some few miles of unspoiled Surrey and Sussex country we reached Dedisham Convalescent Nursery School which is situated amidst lovely farmland country and has, as its President, Her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk, and the Hon. Mrs. A. M. Holman as Vice-President.

On arrival, we were most courteously received by Miss Beatrice West at present, by request, acting as Matron, who conducted us to the Administrative building which, we learned, was originally one large farmhouse, and given by Mr. A. M. Holman, the owner of the estate.

The School was opened in 1929 by Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. A. M. Holman, to be run for the benefit of delicate children up to seven years of age, who could not otherwise have a long period in country surroundings, and have a chance of being restored to normal health.

A very fine schoolroom was built facing south, some 60 feet in length, the whole of the front consisting of folding glass

Education, and is affiliated to the National Society of Children's Nurseries. Regular free time is given to students every day, and a month's holiday during two years' training. While training, students attend Lectures at Guildford Technical College, or at Brighton, etc. Each wing has a general trained Sister in charge.

Now, starting on a tour of the house, the charming quarters for the Matron on the first floor leave nothing to be desired for rest and recreation; here, as everywhere, the outlook of Sussex farmland is so arresting in a beauty all its own.

On the second floor are the quarters for night students, trained nurses and one sister.

From these quarters, we pass into the Intake Wing. Here, up to 10 children are admitted at one time for their first three weeks for quarantine purposes, in case of infection.

The perfect equipment for all that is necessary, the sun-giving aspect, the simple and charming furnishings in which are lovely printed linens in delightful colourings and design touching on "the wind in the willows" story which adorn the screen covers, window curtains, bedcovers, etc.; this

scheme, brought into practice and inspired by the Hon. Mrs. A. M. Holman, and which includes an emblem allocated to each child, for example, Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle Duck, etc. All children have their emblem worked on all clothing, towels, etc., and therefore know what is theirs without a doubt.

The students work the emblems and mend most of the clothing and bedding. On our round a little group of students were absorbed with their needle, they sometimes make the children's frocks, and arrayed in a store cupboard there may be seen a collection of little party frocks made by the students.

Incidentally, one learned that the children, who all come for convalescence after various

illnesses, find much that is alluring at Dedisham. All possible time is spent out of doors in the lovely grounds and surrounding country, among delightful experiences of donkey riding, and at this time the great thrill of seeing the friendly relations between Mr. Holman's hunter, known to them as "Long Legs" and the donkey—"Neddy"; then the ducks in the pond, and the excitement in the rescue of sheep from the River Arun when in flood, and now they have the Meet at Slinfold expected on Boxing Day; and last, but not least, when Mrs. Holman invites them to tea at her house "Hyes," Rudgwick.

To continue the tour, no lockers, but baskets hung on the bottom of the bed or cot, hold dressing gown, nightdress and slippers, every item bearing its emblem.

### The Babies' Wing.

This wing is self-contained; here the students do all the cooking and laundering, washing and ironing the babies' clothes, and sometimes learn to make their frocks. Milk and stores are delivered direct to the wing, and one Jersey cow is kept for the babies' milk. The cleaning, with the exception of the floors, is part of the students' duties. In



Hostel for Teaching Staff and Students, Dedisham.

partitions, which allow the maximum of light and air. The school has so progressed that two wings have since been added, one on each side of the main building, an intake block donated by the late Lord Trent, and lastly through the generous gift from King Edward's Hospital Fund of £26,000, it was possible to build the Babies' Wing. The School can now accommodate some 50 children.

### Conditions of Training.

A limited number of girls are trained to take the National Nursery Nurses' Certificate and the Dedisham Nursery School Certificate. Students should be between the ages of 16 and 20 years. The training lasts two years and covers the following subjects: Child Care and Psychology; General English Subjects; Biology; Cooking; Laundry and Needlework. Nine months of the training period are spent with babies under two years old.

During their training students receive 15s. per week for the first year, and £1 afterwards.

"Dedisham" is run under the auspices of the Minister of

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