

they receive their full wages while off duty, less a deduction of a shilling a day towards expenses, so long as they are in the hospital. The hospital is a pretty little building with a red tiled roof. Inside silence reigns supreme. Miss Baynes was not at home when I arrived, so I settled down to wait for her, and one could *hear* the silence, broken only by the ticking of a clock. Beyond this everything was absolutely still. At present there are no patients in the building. The accommodation for them consists of two wards, with five beds in one, and three in the other. The wards are bright and pretty and in excellent order, everything being ready for the immediate reception of a patient or patients at any moment. Besides the wards there are on the ground floor the Matron's office, a kitchen, larder, scullery, bathroom, and other necessary offices, and servant's bedroom. Above are the Matron's sitting-room and bedroom, and plenty of store cupboards. The hospital is maintained by the government, and by the contributions aforementioned of the in-patients. The hospital is also available for the employes of the Small Arms Factory which is close to the gunpowder factory, and where about 3,000 men are employed, but they more often go to the Hospital at Tottenham, where they pay nothing. Outside the hospital the borders are gay with flowers, and on the other side of a stream which runs parallel to it, are rows of grim looking buildings, where a thousand men are daily employed in making gunpowder for the use of a Christian nation. Verily it seems as if it would be some time before we are within measurable distance of the millenium, when we shall not "learn war any more." One wonders when the time arrives when the nations "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks," what peaceful use will be found for gunpowder. Perhaps a museum will be opened for the preservation of specimens of all the horrible devices, which in the barbarous nineteenth century were used by men to slay one another, and gunpowder will find a place among them. Meanwhile as its manufacture would appear to be a necessity we may be thankful that a hospital exists for the reception of those who are injured while engaged in so dangerous an occupation. At the last bad explosion four men were blown to pieces, and of ten more, who were nursed in the recreation room, turned temporarily into a hospital, nine were so severely injured that they eventually died. May it be long before the present hospital has so terrible a record.

The country round Waltham Abbey is, I am sure, charming, but I had no time to explore it. I feel certain, however, that anyone who wishes for a country spin could not do better than take the train to Waltham, and then penetrate into the surrounding country on a bicycle.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE War Office have at length consented to the Red Cross Society's application for rendering assistance to the wounded and sick in the Soudan. The Society's officers will have only a limited area to carry out their humane work, but it is anticipated that there will be plenty for them to do in receiving the men, attending them, and passing them on northwards. We hope that some fully qualified Nurses will be included amongst the Society's Officers.

Professor Virchow is coming to London to deliver the second Huxley lecture of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical School on October 3rd. The occasion will be made an opportunity by the medical profession to show him some public mark of the high esteem in which he is held in this country. As at present arranged, Professor Virchow will be invited to a dinner at the Hôtel Métropole, in Northumberland Avenue, on Wednesday, October 5th. Lord Lister has promised to take the chair, and among those who have expressed their intention of being present are a large number of the leading medical men of the country.

A patient recently died in St. Mary's Hospital after living for a week with a dislocation of the sixth and seventh cervical vertebrae as well as a fracture of the seventh vertebra. A post mortem examination showed that the spinal cord also was stretched and pulled.

The fruit trees at Waterlow Park are bearing exceptional crops this year, and the fruit will be devoted by the London County Council entirely to the use of the patients in the London Hospitals. The park authorities expect to be able to supply the hospitals with about a ton of fruit of various kinds, and nearly a thousand bunches of hothouse grapes.

A man named Mills was last week attacked by a fellow workman, and felled to the ground with a blow on the forehead from a hammer. The assailant then knelt upon his victim's chest and rained blows upon his head. According to the *Daily Mail*, Mills was removed in a precarious condition to St. Thomas' Hospital. Even for so desperate a case as this, however, the hospital was too full for the authorities to admit him, and he was carried to his home in St. Oswald's Place, Kennington.

Surely a hospital should never be too full for the admission of so serious a case. If it were not assumed that bad accidents would always be admitted few people would risk taking such cases to hospitals, for time is too precious to be wasted when the loss of it may make all the difference to the patient.

A branch of the newly-formed Army and Navy Invalid and Convalescent Home has been opened at Portsmouth, intended for the use of sick discharged men and those on long sick leave.

A Children's Ward has been opened at the Dewsbury Infirmary, a room which has hitherto been used as a reserve room, being adapted for the purpose. The cost of the whole of the structural alterations,

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