

The Hospital World.

THE ROYAL ARSENAL HOSPITAL, WOOLWICH.

To the true nurse the atmosphere of a hospital is the vital essential of the air she breathes, and to find oneself within hospital walls, chatting with Sisters and nurses, all so keen and looking so sweet and fresh in their tasteful uniforms, gives life a fillip, and scatters to the four winds of heaven conventional cobwebs.

Have you ever heard of a hospital which treats the "civil" sick staffed by military doctors and nurses? No. Well it is done at the Royal Arsenal Hospital, Woolwich. Quite recently, by the kind invitation of Miss Johanna Clay — who is Sister-in-Charge — I had the pleasure of paying a visit to the hospital, and something quite unique and interesting I found it.

Considering the wonders and mystery in the technicalities of making munitions of war, and the splendid and costly machinery to be found in the Arsenal, a man in blue, is, of course, stationed at the gates who questions you politely when you appear. Then you are permitted to pass through the grounds, past picturesque buildings, and find your way round a corner to the Nursing Sisters' quarters. And very charming quarters they are. Here in a house, containing spacious old-fashioned rooms, Miss Clay, and the three "Reserve" Nurses, who compose the staff, live *en famille*.

What is so agreeable is that these quarters are self-contained, the parlour opens on to quite a delightful garden, and it was here, after lunch, that we took our coffee.

Miss Clay combines a taste for horticulture with a very keen love of nursing, and she pointed with pride to the improvements in the lawn, becoming, with attention, quite velvety,

and to the flower border, along a high old wall, up which jasmine and roses were climbing, and from which I had a little nosegay which sweetened the whole day.

The little Hospital—which is only a few steps away—is not new, but has been brought well up to date by Colonel Loughheed, the senior medical officer. The whole interior is painted white—corridors, theatre, and wards—white beds in the operating ward, pretty green and white tiled tables, and beautiful bright old copper coal scuttles, make it a cheery place, in which the patients looked most comfortable and well cared for. It is a very busy hospital, as there are about 14,000 artisans working



MILITARY SISTERS IN THEIR GARDEN.

within the Arsenal walls, so that the 20 beds are kept constantly full. A great deal of abdominal operation work is successfully performed. Some 150 out-patients attend daily.

Orderlies, instead of ward-maids keep clean the wards, bathroom, &c., but Miss Clay herself presides over the operating theatre, which is a picture of order, with its glass cupboards

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)