

## THE TERRITORIAL FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

On Saturday evening, October 18th, by invitation of Miss E. C. Barton, Principal Matron of the 3rd City and County of London Territorial Hospital, the nursing staff of the Hospital met in the recreation room of the Nurses' Home of the Chelsea Infirmary, which was decorated with flags, to make acquaintance with their new Commanding Medical Officer, Dr. Bruce Porter, and the Registrar, Captain Miller. Miss Barton presided at the proceedings, which were quite informal, and the members of the Service present were addressed both by Colonel Porter and Miss Amy Hughes.

### ADDRESS OF THE COMMANDING MEDICAL OFFICER.

Colonel Bruce Porter, after thanking Miss Barton for giving him the opportunity of meeting the members of the nursing staff of the Hospital said that he was invited to take command at the beginning of the year. As a believer in universal service he was not, in its absence, in favour of standing with his hands folded until we were involved in war and then of volunteering at the last moment. If war broke out, there would be any number of volunteers, the majority of whom would be useless, as they would be untrained, and those qualified to train them would be otherwise occupied.

He considered the most dangerous condition of the country at the present time was its apathy, and even if people were not actually apathetic they preferred to leave their duty to someone else, and then grumbled if it was not done.

Colonel Bruce Porter said that Captain Miller had recently been appointed Registrar, and Mr. Fish the Quartermaster was also new to the unit. They were anxious to make the unit as perfect as possible, so that if it were called upon to act the part of the Territorial Force machine for which they were mutually responsible would not break down.

He thought that though each of the General Hospitals consisted of 520 beds, they must be ready to expand to a thousand. The four General Hospitals would only take 2,080 patients, and if one considered the number of men likely to be injured in a life and death struggle these hospitals would soon be filled by the sick and wounded passing into London. It would not do to count on a single bed in the civil hospitals as the experience of all countries showed that in time of war the sick rate of the civil population went up by leaps and bounds, and the existing civil hospitals were insufficient for the ordinary calls on them in time of peace. In spite of the fact that they were the product of evolution, had every facility for the rapid handling of the sick, possessed operating theatres and nursing staffs trained in their own buildings and accustomed to work together, any sudden rush of

accidents calling for operation would tax them to the uttermost.

Those responsible for the 3rd London, General Hospital would not have these advantages, but would have handed over to them a building not previously used as a hospital, and therefore not fitted with the conveniences which meant so much, and must arrange that building to deal with the sick and wounded who would be rushed in from the front. It was true that the County Association would be responsible for the actual building and its furnishing, but they must have more information on this point, and he hoped to get rough plans of the buildings, so that they might be familiar with the situation of the various wards and offices.

If they were content to be merely enrolled and to trust to luck in time of war they would fail; but the better their work was done the sooner the men would be fit to return to the front, and the lower would be the death-rate. The medical officers left nothing to be desired, they were drawn from the staffs of St. Mary's, University College, and the Middlesex Hospitals, but it must be remembered that their own hospitals would be full and the Territorial Hospital would be an extra strain on their time. The non-commissioned officers and men would be practically drawn from the establishment of Messrs. Hitchcock & Williams, in St. Paul's Churchyard, and, if necessary, the numbers would be completed from outside sources. Colonel Bruce Porter invited the help of the members of the nursing service in teaching the young men who would be non-commissioned officers and orderlies. Captain Miller had arranged a course of lectures for them at headquarters, 3, Henry Street, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., during the winter months, and he asked for volunteers to come up one evening a week and supplement his lectures with a demonstration in nursing. In this way Colonel Bruce Porter said that they would give him real help in making the lectures of practical value to the men. If war broke out he hoped they would not meet as strangers in a strange building, but as friends who had met in time of peace to fit themselves, and others, for the responsible task of handling a big hospital filled with those who had been stricken down, either by wounds or disease, in defending the honour of their country and the homes of its people.

### MISS AMY HUGHES.

Miss Amy Hughes hoped that the nurses of the Territorial Force would respond gladly to the appeal of the Colonel for such help in the training of the men as they could give by lecturing and demonstrating on nursing. There seemed to be some confusion in the public mind between the Territorial Force Nursing Service and the Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachments. It should be known that every nurse enrolled in the T. F. N. S. must hold the certificate of a recognised training school; whereas the members of the Red Cross detachments were not trained in the real sense of the

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