

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

3RD LONDON GENERAL HOSPITAL T.F.N.S.

It would occupy columns to describe in detail all the delights of Territorial Force General Hospitals fitted up with everything brand new and spick and span, waiting and crying out for the patients to arrive. No. 3 London General Hospital is situated at Wandsworth, and the Royal Patriotic Schools have been adapted for the purpose. These are handsome buildings with spacious grounds. We were received on the occasion of our visit by a most courteous and patient Sister, who conducted us exhaustively over all departments without so much as once conveying that it was anything but a pleasure. This added greatly to the enjoyment of our visit as we could ask questions, peep into cupboards, examine with covetous eye all the minute preparations made for the treatment and comfort of the wounded, to our hearts' content. The first impressions on entering the gates were bell tents, for use of officers and men—nurses, whose scarlet edged tippets made bright spots of colour amongst the trees—and a general air of expectancy. In the entrance hall was the telephone exchange, and from thence we passed into the splendid dining-hall that had been converted into the receiving ward and was fitted up with an emergency theatre in one corner, shut off with heavy screens. In a conspicuous position there was a bronze statue of Lord Kitchener. In addition to the accommodation provided by the permanent building a number of corrugated iron huts are in course of erection, each to accommodate twenty-five beds. One of these is set apart for a theatre, and it was really surprising to see the effect of the imitation white tiling with which the entire walls were covered.

In the permanent building the dormitories were well adapted for their purpose of medical, surgical and ophthalmic wards. For the latter two large wards are set apart. There was a homely and welcoming air about them that will make them indeed a haven to our wounded soldiers, after the stress and horror of War. We were on the other hand shown a padded room; some of us have no doubt seen in the Press that there are cases of insanity reported among the troops. What wonder?

There is an X-ray department, which we can readily believe will be quite indispensable.

In an outer building are the mortuary, post mortem, and pathological rooms. The children's infirmary, which is separate and some little way from the main building, has been adapted as a Nursing Home for officers. Very cosy and bright did the small wards look. In this building also is the temporary theatre, which will be used until the hut for that purpose is ready. Operating tables, instrument cabinets, trolleys, were all of the most approved pattern, and the stock of instruments left nothing to be desired. Countless drums of sterilised dressings were in readiness,

prepared in the sterilising room we had been shown before. The nurses are accommodated in three villas at a short distance from the hospital; a fourth is shortly to be acquired.

We should like to mention the extremely simple, inexpensive and ingenious contrivance for the invalids to write upon; this was a board on supports curved to fit the body, and on which the arm could rest.

Miss Eleanor Barton (Matron of Chelsea Infirmary) is principal Matron; and Miss E. Holden (Matron of the Richmond Hospital, Dublin) is Matron. Both ladies were trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. H. H.

## THE SUICIDE OF A SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

### A MOST SAD TRAGEDY.

The enquiry on the death of Superintendent Nurse Charlotte Alice Phipps, aged 39, held in the Board Room of Barnet Workhouse, resulted in a verdict as follows:—

"The deceased committed suicide by veronal poisoning while suffering from mental depression consequent upon worry, the result of undue interference by members of the House Committee of the Barnet Board of Guardians who were incited thereto by their chairman, who should be called upon to resign his membership."

The letter in our last issue signed "Indignant Ratepayer," prepared us in some measure for the above verdict.

Abundant evidence from the medical officer and members of the nursing staff went to prove the efficiency and administrative qualities of the deceased lady.

Nurse Summers, who has been nearly twelve years in the institution, gave testimony on oath that Miss Phipps was a most thoroughly capable woman, and always most kind and considerate to the patients.

Counsel: "And you feel so strongly about it that you have resigned?"

Witness: "I have. I feel it very much," she added, "the shameful way in which Sister has been persecuted for months and months. She has never been given her proper position, and no one has had a better opportunity of seeing it than I have."

Nurses Aird and Post gave similar testimony.

The most convincing evidence were the letters written by the dead woman shortly before her tragic end.

In a letter to the chairman she asks: "Have I ever been given a chance? Did the nurses never leave before I came? Have we ever had much consideration shown us? No; we are only 'a lot of servants.' I have no wish to dictate to the Board, but I do beg to point out to the Board that I have never had the control of the nurses. The Master has that. Nurses have been allowed to sleep out of the building without my knowledge.

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