

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, HASLAR.

The Royal Hospital, Haslar, must always have an exceptional interest for trained nurses, for it was there that the experiment of introducing a staff of Naval Nursing Sisters to care for our sick and wounded sailors was first tried, and I well remember visiting Haslar a quarter of a century ago when the experiment was still in its infancy, and the thrill of pride I felt in the efficiency of my profession when I was told that since the introduction of the Sisters the death-rate had gone down 50 per cent.

Now in the principal Naval Hospitals the Sisters are firmly established, and the dark

with exceptionally fine sculpture of the period of George II.

At the back, the wings at each end of the central block, and at right angles to it, form the great quadrangle, enclosing grounds which, even on a wintry day in late November, were very impressive, and in the summer must be exceedingly beautiful.

On arriving at the main entrance, I found two policemen on duty, for the hospital is to all intents and purposes a fortress, one of whom, acting on instructions from the Surgeon-General, Dr. J. J. Dennis, who had been notified by the Admiralty of my visit, conducted me to the Sisters' Duty Room, where I found a Sister ready to take me round the building.



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blue uniform, with the little blue cape piped with red, part of the accepted order.

On Saturday last, by permission of the Director-General, I again visited Haslar, and by the kindness of the Admiralty was able to go straight from Portsmouth Harbour pier by the Admiralty boat, instead of landing at Gosport, thus having the twofold benefit of going straight to my destination, and of approaching the hospital through the fine avenue of trees leading up to the main entrance and central colonnade, and obtaining a comprehensive view of the long low brick building, warm red in colour, faced with white stone, and decorated

In time of peace the nursing staff consists of the Head Sister, Miss K. M. Hickley, R.R.C., Miss Mary C. Clark (Superintending Sister), and sixteen Sisters of the staff of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, besides the Sick Berth Staff. Just now many of the Regular Sisters are on active service, and the staff consists mainly of probationary Sisters and some thirty Sisters of the Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve. There are also some St. John Ambulance Association orderlies. The Nursing Sisters wear, as may be seen in our illustration, an embroidered badge, consisting of a Geneva Cross on a white ground,

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