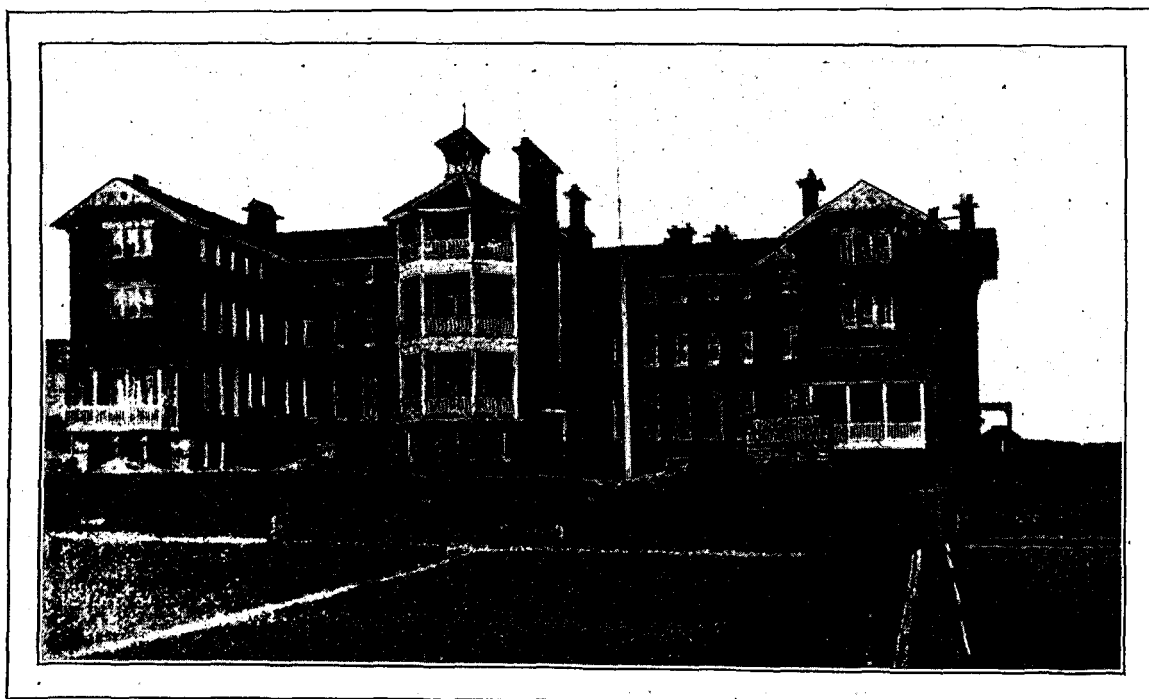


## THE MILITARY RECEPTION HOSPITAL, SEAFORD.

The promise made to me of brilliant sunshine and scintillating blue sea was *not* fulfilled; but hospitality and genial courtesy were liberally extended to me on the occasion of my visit to the Military Reception Hospital at Seaford. It is not only fashionable dressmakers and milliners who produce "creations." Since the war broke out, many active minds (of men and women) have been at work originating ideas of usefulness and beneficence to meet the emergency of the situation, and this hospital is one of the *creations* of the war. Like many individuals, it has recently changed its name, not,

### PAST HISTORY.

It has the distinction of being a pioneer institution, for it is—with one exception—the oldest convalescent hospital in the kingdom, having been founded in 1859, when so little was done for the poor, by Mr. W. H. Maitland, whose portrait appropriately adorns the hall. The original building was one of very modest proportions; it has been gradually enlarged to its present size. Standing on high ground, facing the sea, surrounded by a well-kept garden, the position is admirably suited to its purpose. It is built in three wings, connected by the administrative block, and looks at once imposing and attractive. It can accommodate



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however, for the purpose of concealment, for its past history is one of usefulness and philanthropy, and well worth a brief retrospective glance. Formerly the well-known, long-established Convalescent Hospital of which the King and Queen are patrons, it was offered by the Committee to the War Office, and accepted for the reception of men belonging to Lord Kitchener's new army who may need hospital treatment. Twenty thousand troops are now stationed at Seaford; it goes without saying, therefore, that the hospital supplies a great need. That it is excellently suited for the purpose may be gathered from our illustration.

120 patients of both sexes, most of whom come from London. For the small sum of 5s. a week the maximum of comfort and a very liberal and varied diet are given to the tired, over-worked people, and children over ten years of age, who come to spend three or four weeks in the bracing air of Seaford, many of whom have afterwards sent letters overflowing with gratitude for kindness received.

Since the new order of things the accommodation for the civil convalescents has of necessity been reduced to 28 beds only; the rest have been given up to the military authorities for the sick soldiers.

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