

H.M. QUEEN MARY'S ROYAL NAVAL HOSPITAL.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

There could scarcely be a finer site for a naval hospital than that secured by the Committee of Queen Mary's Royal Naval Hospital in the Palace Hotel at Southend. Close to the sea dotted with fishing craft, and with wide balconies, on which the convalescents can enjoy the invigorating breezes, it is also a centre of endless interest to the townsfolk and visitors who congregate below, and deftly throw packets of cigarettes to the men on the balconies above them, who—slings and bandages notwithstanding—never fail to catch the gifts thus showered upon them.

Although the hospital is a naval one, it is at present full of wounded British and Belgian soldiers, 268 beds out of a possible 300 being occupied. The Matron, Miss Finnemore, trained at Guy's Hospital, is full of sympathy for these patients. She will never, she says, forget the arrival of the Belgians, mostly from Antwerp, and many of them severely wounded. They had had no opportunity of a change or a wash for weeks, and the whole nursing staff worked their hardest, far into the night, to get them comfortably settled in bed. The British patients fared better, as they were landed at Plymouth, and were able to get washed, and have a change of linen, before coming on to Southend.

It is astonishing what a short time in hospital does for these wounded soldiers. Rest, good food, and sleep quickly restores them, and when I visited the hospital, which has been open a short three weeks, on Saturday last, the

majority of beds were empty, and the balconies crowded with convalescents. Some of the more serious cases were lying on their beds, and, incidentally I may remark that anyone wishing to befriend the hospital could not do better than give it some hundreds of quilts, as at present it boasts of very few, and new white blankets will soon be white no longer, if patients who are up, and need a rest, lie on the top of them. A gift of pillows would also be appreciated.

There are in all seven wards—Mary, George, Albert, Elizabeth, France, Japan, and Russia. The largest were formerly the lounge, the dining-room, and the ball-room, and have fine sea views, and indeed, when the sun sets, the sea seems an expanse of molten gold, a quite unexpected revelation of beauty for the East Coast.

There is a large dining-room where those patients who are up have meals. The dinners come up from the kitchen on a lift, and are served from a hot table near by.

A well-equipped theatre, sterilizing room, and X-ray room have been arranged. The nurses have comfortable quarters at the top of the building, as single bedrooms of the hotel provide ample accommodation. In the hospital part of the building, however, it is regrettable that there are no single rooms which can be utilized



Photo]

[Southend Standard.

MISS K. E. FINNEMORE, MATRON.

as wards for sick or wounded officers.

Her Majesty the Queen is President of the Hospital, and Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, G.C.V.O., is amongst its distinguished Vice-Presidents. Dr. W. Hale White is the Chairman and Consulting Physician, and Sir Alfred D. Fripp, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon, and Mr. R. H. Jocelyn Swan, F.R.C.S., are also members of the Committee. Dr. Chisholm is Resident Medical Officer, and

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