

TERRITORIAL HOSPITALS.

THE 5TH NORTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The Territorial Hospital at Leicester has found a convenient habitat in the building formerly used as the County Asylum, but now discarded in favour of a more modern building. It follows that when mobilisation was ordered many alterations, structural and otherwise, and much cleaning, were necessary to fit it for its present purpose, but everyone worked with a will, and the result is an extremely comfortable and well-ordered hospital.

Arrived in Leicester, I called first on the Principal Matron of the 5th Northern Hospital, Miss Vincent, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, who most kindly took me to the hospital, which is some twenty minutes' walk from the Infirmary, ideally situated on rising ground overlooking a

adequate allowance for expenses, and as the Principal Matrons are the only members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service who receive no salary, or even an honorarium, they not only give much gratuitous service, but are considerably out of pocket, besides undergoing considerable strain in doing a large amount of most valuable work as economically as possible. Surely, if the Scottish Red Cross makes the Principal Matrons its special charge in the matter of locomotion, the English Red Cross, in localities where Territorial Hospitals are situated, might do as much.

Arrived at the hospital, we were received by Miss Hannath, the Matron, known to many nurses as the Matron of the Wolverhampton General Hospital, evidently the right woman in the right place. The wards are, many of them, of the shape so usual years ago, wide and rather



COL. HARRISON, MISS VINCENT, MISS HANNATH MAJOR HENRY,
Commanding Officer. Principal Matron. Matron. Registrar.

MEMBERS OF STAFF 5TH NORTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL T.F.

wide expanse of open country, with fresh air blowing round and through it. On a February afternoon, to a Londoner, the walk was enjoyable enough, but one wondered how it would be for the busy Principal Matron to toil uphill on a hot summer's afternoon, and whether the War Office gave a thought to the conditions under which the work of the Principal Matron is performed. I have been struck by the fact that, while in Scotland, members of the local Red Cross organisation seem to place motors at the disposal of the Principal Matrons whenever they wish to visit the Territorial Hospitals, in England they appear to get about as best they may. I do not gather that the authorities at headquarters are keen to make an

longer than wide. Whatever points there may be in favour of the elongated wards beloved of architects nowadays, they are not as cosy as those of an older date for the patients, while the great amount of walking necessitated certainly involves considerable strain for the nurses. Some of the wards are curiously long and narrow in shape, almost passage rooms, and opening out of them are rows of single rooms, formerly the padded rooms of the asylum. The doors have now been taken off, and they are not without advantage in securing quiet for the more serious cases, but they must add considerably to the anxiety of Sisters and nurses responsible for their supervision.

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