

NURSING AND THE WAR.

The King and Queen paid a visit to the Queen Alexandra's Hospital for Officers at Highgate last Saturday, and were very gracious and kind to the patients and staff. The Queen observed that some of the patients on the verandahs were not entirely protected from the sun by the existing awnings and intimated her intention to provide the additional awnings necessary.

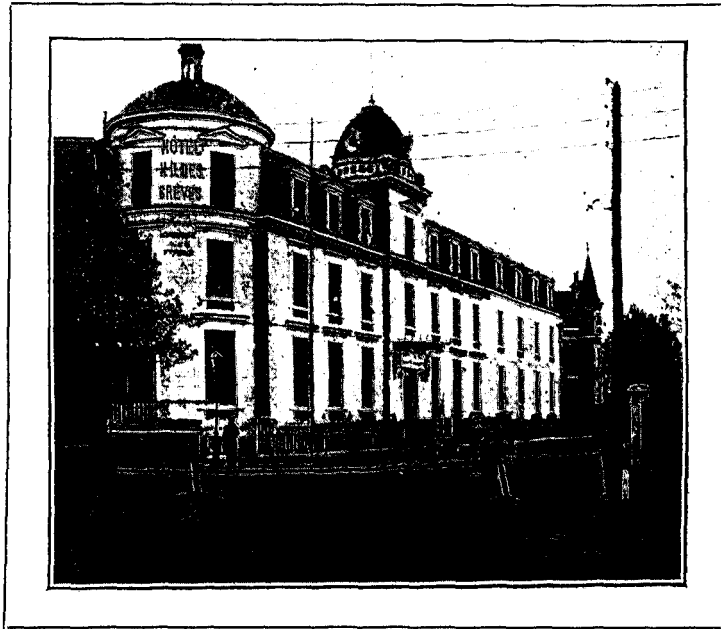
Queen Alexandra has presented a silver-mounted walking stick and a service pocket book to each patient in the hospital, and a box of chocolates to each member of the nursing staff.

It is to be regretted that out of thousands of Voluntary Aid Workers, of the 3000 asked for by the War Office, to act as probationers in military hospitals, comparatively few women of the right age are prepared to volunteer for the year's service under military discipline. The term of service has, therefore, been reduced to six months, so that just as these workers have acquired a little practical experience, and their services are of value to our sick and wounded men, they will be at liberty to leave. This short term of service will add still further to the responsibility and hard work of the trained Sisters and nurses, whose duties already impose a sufficient mental and physical strain on their health.

On the other hand we are informed by Matrons and Sisters: "Short term probationers have their advantages—they are usually of a better educated class than the type of probationer who, of late years, has taken up nursing, more like those of thirty years ago, who entered hospitals because they had the vocation. The short term worker is in a hurry, she wants to see and do all she possibly can in the few hours she is on duty daily; she is not a 'lifer,' compelled to earn her own living, with years of hard work demanded from her before she is considered qualified for a certificate. She usually comes from a comfortable home, and has no financial anxiety—as she is

paid staff nurse's wages from the first and she knows that if she does not feel up to duty, she can stay comfortably in bed at home. It is inevitable that comparisons will be made by the less fortunate four years' probationers, and their deductions are likely to produce many reforms in their term of hospital service after the war. . . . Several have said to me: 'Why should we drudge for four years if nursing is such simple work that it can be safely performed by untrained women? And why should we not have £20 salary in our first year? If V.A.D.'s are worth it, we are more so, as we shall use our skill for the hospital when acquired, whereas the short term pro. will give none of it: before she is skilled she departs.'

There is little doubt nursing service and training will have to be considered when the schools are reorganized after the present upheaval.



L'HÔPITAL MILITAIRE NOTRE DAMES DES GRÈVES,
PARAMÉ, ST. MALO.

The Matron of the Liverpool Merchants' Mobile Hospital with the British Expeditionary Force in France writes to a member of the Liverpool Cotton Association:—

"I feel that I should like very much to thank you and all the kind friends of the Cotton Exchange who sent the very handsome present of sweets, flower-pots, &c., for our hospital. They

were all just the very things we were wishing for and did not get, so now we feel very well off indeed. It is also such a pleasure to us to feel that you are thinking of us at home and that we have your sympathy.

"We all feel it is a tremendous privilege to be here and to do this work, and having got it to do what we want is to make the hospital worthy of Liverpool.

"We have dealt with about 600 cases already, and have only had one death. It is very appalling to see the endless stream of stretcher cases arrive, each with what has been a fine, strong young man, now a hopeless wreck. It makes one mad with rage and would break one's heart if there was time to think, which fortunately for us there is not, as there is so much to do to relieve them. The gas cases are too ghastly, eyes limp, nerves ruined. I

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