

probationers, and they will, of course, be increased as patients come in. One doubts the uses of probationers in a hospital of this kind, where every patient needs the care of a nurse, not only trained in a general hospital but in the care of nervous diseases—one of the most difficult branches of nursing work, requiring not only special training but special gifts. One has one's own very strong conviction that the best results would be obtained if only such nurses were employed, their work being supplemented by that of an expert domestic staff.

Lord Knutsford has, however, done good work in providing the hospital, and we hope he will receive the support for which he asks.

Lord Michelham has made the munificent gift of £14,000 to the fund for sick and wounded for the purchase of a hospital train. These well equipped trains save an infinity of suffering. We wonder if the poor French soldiers are being provided with such comfort. They tell our English nurses without the slightest envy that the English soldiers are much better cared for than they are—better clothes, better food, better nursing. This should appeal to our wealthy minority, whose source of income might materially decrease were it not that this great War, with Great Britain as the objective of the enemy, is being fought on French soil. No invidious comparison should be possible if we can do anything to prevent it.

Sir Arthur Sloggett, Surgeon-General to the British Forces at the Front, has approved and accepted a proposal to procure and equip four ambulance barges for immediate use on the waterways at the seat of war in France and Flanders. The use of barges as a means of transport for wounded and as actual hospitals has been tried, and met with the complete satisfaction of the authorities.

The climate of Cimiez is an ideal one for patients on the road to recovery, and the loveliness of this beauty spot on the Riviera is well known. It is a happy arrangement, therefore, whereby the Grand Hotel has been opened as a Convalescent Home for British Officers, under the control of the Order of St John of Jerusalem and the British Red Cross Society, and with the approval of the King it is to be known as "Queen Mary's Convalescent Home for British Officers." The home, which will accommodate 100 officers in separate rooms, was opened last week by Surgeon-General Sir Arthur Sloggett, who was received by M. de Joly, Prefect of the Alps-Maritimes. The hospital as described by a correspondent of the *Times* commands glorious views of Nice and the sweep of the coast border the Bay of Angels, those gardens, where the Bourgainvillea—most delicate of plants—will bloom, were the delight of Queen Victoria during her sojourns at the neighbouring Pavillon Victoria. The Medical Superintendent

of this terrestrial Paradise is Major S. Mackew, and the Matron, Miss Pierce. By a thoughtful arrangement, relatives of the patients can be received at some of the first-class hotels at a special rate of eight francs a day.

The King has sent Lady Parkington a donation of £100 for the Montenegrin Red Cross Relief Fund.

A GOOD BEGINNING.

Apparently the War Office has been taking into consideration the many unfavourable reports which have been so freely discussed, on the lack of organization, and the consequent bad management of many hastily equipped voluntary hospitals dominated by untrained ladies and over staffed with untrained members of Voluntary Aid Detachments. We learn that quite a tidy few have been recently closed or re-organized, and that it is contemplated to decrease their number considerably. It is high time. The Millicent Sutherland Ambulance at Dunkirk has been partly closed, and the Duchess, who has been acting as Matron, is at home again. Queen Mary's Hospital, Southend, will, for the future be worked on more professional lines; the Lady Superintendent and Secretary have left, and the trained Matron is now in authority as practical head of the Nursing department. The supervision of the nursing of the sick in hospitals by untrained ladies, even with best intentions, is a fatal mistake. Our soldiers' lives are far too sacred to be trifled with as a society fad.

THE PASSING BELL.

The Exchange Telegraph Co.'s correspondent at Petrograd says:—At her home near Odessa Mlle. Ludmila Alexinsky has died after a career of courage and devotion on the battlefield which are without parallel. Mlle. Alexinsky was present as a Red Cross sister at the battle of Gumbinnen in August. When helping to carry a wounded man out of fire she was wounded by a bullet in the hand. After recovery she was transferred to the army of General Ruski in Galicia. She was present at three Galician battles. At Rozwadok a doctor whom she was assisting was killed by a shell, his body being blown against her with such force that she was stunned. After a few weeks' rest she again returned to the front and helped to succour the numerous German wounded left behind at Rsgow. During the Rsgow-Tuschian battle she was seventeen hours under fire. Finding the entrenchment warfare did not give scope for her work, Mlle. Alexinsky went to South Poland, and was present at the storming of Petrokoff by the Austrians. As she left the town she was wounded in the shoulder. She was taken to Moscow, and afterwards to South Russia, where she died from blood-poisoning. She is the seventeenth Russian Red Cross sister who has been killed in battle, or died from wounds.

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