

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

### POOR LAW NURSES HELP THE WOUNDED.

The large number of poor law infirmaries and other hospitals and institutions under the control of public authorities which have been or are to be utilised as military hospitals is an indication of the number of wounded for whom the War Office considers it necessary to make provision during the next few months.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board is putting at its disposal the Brook Hospital, Shooters' Hill, in the near future, as well as the Orchard Hospital, with 1,600 beds, and the Lower Southern Hospital, with accommodation for 1,700 more patients. The Horton Asylum, Epsom, which will still be administered by the London County Council, is another large institution being used. The present Medical Superintendent, Dr. Lord, is the commandant, and the Matron, Miss M. M. Thorburn, will still hold office.

The Fulham Infirmary, with Miss Ballantyne as Matron, is now in working order as a military hospital, Miss Ballantyne taking rank as a Matron in the Territorial Force Nursing Service. The Edmonton Infirmary, of which Miss Dowbiggin is Matron, the Bethnal Green Infirmary, Cambridge Heath, the City of London Infirmary, Bow Road, E., the Mile End Infirmary, the Lewisham Infirmary, and the Hampstead Infirmary are also at the disposal of the military authorities, as well as the old St. Giles' Infirmary in Endell Street, W.C., of which medical women have charge, and where Miss Grace Hale, Matron of the New Hospital for Women, has, as we recorded last week, been appointed Matron.

Other institutions utilised are the Infirmary at Reading, the Dudley Road Infirmary, Birmingham, the Infirmary and Workhouse at Selly Oak, three pavilions at the Stockport Infirmary, two blocks at the Birkenhead Infirmary, the Stoke-on-Trent Workhouse, the

Nottingham Infirmary, the North Evington Infirmary, Leicester, the Crumpsall Infirmary, Manchester, the Booth Hall Infirmary, Prestwich, the Withington Infirmary, South Manchester, blocks containing five hundred beds at the Hope Hospital, Salford, twelve hundred beds in two Workhouses of the West Derby Union, a block of five hundred beds at Kirkdale Workhouse, Liverpool, the Bolton Infirmary, four hundred beds in the Leeds Infirmary, Bowling Park Colony, Bradford, Sheffield Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne Infirmary—in all over 16,000 beds.

Of Asylums, in addition to Horton, there are the Norfolk County, Wadsley, Winwick, West Sussex, Rubery Hill and Hollymoor (Birmingham),

Newcastle-on-Tyne, Bristol and Cardiff Asylums, with in all 14,600 beds; and schools in London and the provinces accommodating 22,295 beds have also been taken over.

So that, in addition to the Military and Territorial Hospitals in the United Kingdom, we have over 63,000 beds in readiness, and another 1,600 if we include King George's Hospital. Whether we regard this provision for the alleviation and cure of suffering, as indeed it is, or as evidence of the ruthlessness of war, it gives us pause for thought.

The Matron of the Hartlepool Hospital (Miss Annie Stevenson), who is a member of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, has been called up for service at the 3rd Northern General Hospital, Sheffield.



ANGLO-FRENCH HOSPITAL, CHERBOURG.  
SISTERS BROADBERRY AND BOUTH, V.A.D., AND PROF. SOMERVILLE.  
DR. HODSON, ZOUAVE, BELGIAN OFFICER, COL. SWAYNE.

In reply to our request Miss Thurstan kindly furnished us with the following information, from practical experience, on nursing at the front, previous to sending our reply as President of the N.C.T.N. to a letter from the Director-General, Army Medical Service:—

### A FEW POINTS RE NURSING AT THE FRONT.

1. *The importance of only fully qualified doctors and fully-trained nurses doing the first dressings.*  
—Sometimes a considerable time elapses between

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)