

RICHMOND MILITARY HOSPITAL.

This hospital is one of those that have been taken over from the Poor Law Authorities for its present use, and is admirably adapted for its purpose. It was growing dusk when we arrived, but it was light enough for us to admire the entrance of the building, which is said to have been a shooting box of George III. Even now the close vicinity of beautiful Richmond Park would appear to offer opportunities for sport, for when by the courtesy of the Matron we were allowed to stand in the gathering darkness on the balcony of one of the upper floors, overlooking the park, most weird anti-phonal grunts broke the stillness and we were informed that they proceeded from the deer, apparently close at hand. All this within 8 minutes' walk of a "33" bus from Piccadilly.

The present accommodation for the wounded is 420 beds, with a probability of increase. The fine, long wards of the infirmary buildings require very little adaptation, and the laundry and kitchen leave nothing to be desired. In the latter we noticed a beautiful terrazzo floor. The central dining-room is another feature of the building, and there our admiration was centred on the hot table for serving the meals, with the top resembling large gravy dishes and cupboards below, where the food is placed till it is served. The whole structure is, of course, metal throughout and is a possession to be aimed at by all institutions where there is a common dining-room.

The X-ray room and theatre have been adapted and the latter is completely fitted with all modern

requirements. The flooring here is of red composition, and the interior white enamel throughout. The X-ray room is of a soft green.

The patients are transfers, and many of them were up and enjoying bagatelle and other games in rooms provided for recreation. The cheerful sounds of the gramophone reached us from more than one quarter, and we were told that this instrument is most popular.

The dressing trolleys, made after a design by the Matron, are dainty, convenient and inexpensive. They are of wood enamelled white, with rubber wheels about three inches in diameter and fitted with a special pole for the douche can. The wheels, which ensure easy, noiseless running, cost 15s. for the four, and the total cost of the trolley 27s. made locally. They are quite admirable.

Accommodation for all the nurses is not possible in the hospital, and a fine house has been taken some three or four minutes' walk off. They cannot complain of their immediate society, for the house adjoining is occupied by Queen Amelie of Portugal. It is comfortably furnished, and though it has been found impossible to give separate rooms for the nurses — in some rooms there are five beds — screens are provided and everything else that can minister to their comfort.

The rooms are very spacious and lofty. We were amused to learn that the War Office regulations compel the authorities to provide a bedside table for each nurse, and in the sitting-room a Chesterfield to every ten nurses.

The corner cupboards, costing 5s. without the curtain, deserve a wide popularity; they are in the form of a frame, which can easily be taken down and folded up for packing.



MISS GERTRUDE FLETCHER,
MATRON, MILITARY HOSPITAL, RICHMOND.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)