

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

THE FULHAM MILITARY HOSPITAL,  
HAMMERSMITH.

The Fulham Military Hospital, until recently the Fulham Infirmary, was honoured on Wednesday in last week by a visit from Her Majesty the Queen, attended by the Lady Mary Trefusis.

The visit was unexpected, and by the Queen's desire was informal, but Her Majesty showed the greatest interest in her visit, speaking to every patient in the wards which she visited, and charming all by her kindness and sympathy. Moreover, the Queen showed that she had a keen memory for what she had seen and heard in the wards, for, when visiting the X-ray room subsequently, on being shown radiographs of interesting cases, she immediately associated them with patients whose cases had been explained to her. Indeed, the Matron, Miss Ballantyne, and the nursing staff were charmed with the real interest and understanding shown by Her Majesty. The visit was no perfunctory one, and gave immense pleasure to all concerned.

The Commanding Officer of the hospital is Major Parsons, formerly Medical Superintendent of the Fulham Infirmary, and the Matron, Miss J. F. Ballantyne, whose portrait, kindly taken for this JOURNAL by Miss Ethel Barker, we have much pleasure in publishing. Miss Ballantyne was trained at Guy's Hospital, and was afterwards Sister, Night Superintendent, and Assistant Matron at the Lewisham Infirmary. Since 1903 Miss Ballantyne has been Matron of the Fulham Infirmary, until it was taken over as a military hospital last spring.

The Hospital at present contains over 900 beds, for the workhouse as well as the infirmary wards have been utilised so that nearly 1,000 beds are available. The great dining hall is utilised for meals for the convalescents, and also weekly entertainments are held there. In the laundry a fabulous number of articles are washed every week, the kitchen is a most cheerful and

attractive department of this great institution. In the linen room stacks of orderly linen testify to the good housewifery of the Matron and the Sister in whose charge it is. Indeed, the excellent qualifications of the Matron for this onerous position are apparent at every turn. She is evidently respected and liked by the nursing staff, and the patients hail her as a friend, while she carries the responsibility of the nursing and domestic arrangements, and the burden of many anxieties with a gaiety which must be a godsend in this house of pain.

Excellent work is being done in the X-ray department by Dr. Stoney, and an immense amount of pain is saved thereby, for not only can the presence of a foreign body be de-

terminately proved, but the depth at which it is embedded can be demonstrated to the fraction of an inch, thus the surgeon can locate it with certainty, and painful probings and explorations are no longer a necessary part of surgery in war time.

The patients at the Fulham Military Hospital are evidently well content with their surroundings, and receive every care that medical science and skilled nursing can suggest.

We have pleasure in publishing a portrait of Sister Martron, a Dutch Red Cross Nurse who has seen active service in every war of importance since that in the Transvaal, spending days and nights in the firing line. Sister Martron, who is shortly to be presented to the King, has received Boer, Albanian, French, Belgian and Serbian medals for her services.

Sister Martron, who has followed the flag of the wounded in many countries, has put the following evidence of brutal ill-treatment of British wounded by Germans on record. When travelling through Belgium in the early days of war, she writes:—

"The train had stopped at Landen, near Liège, and getting out I went towards an open cattle truck around which stood some fifty Germans, who to me appeared as if they were jeering some beasts. To my horror I found that their victims



Photo]

[Ethel Barker, Putney.

MISS J. F. BALLANTYNE,

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