

THE CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The very deepest sympathy must be felt by everyone with those brave men who have, in defending their country, suffered from nervous shock and breakdown, and one of the most beneficent bits of remedial work accomplished was initiated by Lord Knutsford, when in 1914 he made a public appeal for £10,000 to open the hospital for the treatment of such cases at 10, Palace Green—a house generously given for the purpose by the executors of the late Lord Rendel. £11,780 was subscribed, which it was hoped would support the hospital for two years. Alas! the accommodation was soon proved to be quite inadequate for the many sad cases which needed special treatment and care. Mr. R. L. Harmsworth, M.P., then kindly offered the use of Moray Lodge, Campden Hill—that charming house surrounded by three acres of ground—an ideal spot for the purpose, and the house was opened in May, 1915. Altogether 415 patients have been treated in the two hospitals with marked success, and the upkeep of the institutions has run away with the funds; but a generous grant from the Prince of Wales's Fund will enable the work to go on to the end of this year.

The Committee has now been asked by the War Office to come to a joint working arrangement with the directors of the Empire Hospital, Vincent Square, which it has taken over for those officers who are suffering from organic injuries to nerves, i.e., by bullet wounds as distinguished from the functional injuries to nerves; and the hospital at Ham Common for officers suffering from more severe mental disturbance, has also been committed to the care of the Committee. We have no doubt that the interest aroused in this work will be spontaneous and immediate.

Sir Frederick Milner has written to the *Times* to arouse the national conscience on the question of Consumption in the Army. He says:—

"Of 60 men recently discharged, as no longer fit for service, from a London hospital 22 were marked by the medical board as C.P.T.—chronic pulmonary tuberculosis. All these men have stated that they were absolutely sound when they enlisted and had never had any lung trouble in their lives. Yet as the War Office refuses to recognize that consumption can be caused by service, even if it be proved that the men were sound when they enlisted and that they contracted the disease in service, all these wretched men will be deprived of any pension, and the workhouse must be their eventual home. Will the conscience of the nation suffer this? I trust not."

The conscience of our unimaginative nation needs a good deal of instruction. We second Sir Frederick Milner's hope that the men who have fought for us under terribly trying conditions, will not be left to die without help and hope. The taxpayer must jog the conscience of the War Office in this connection.

THE BROOK WAR HOSPITAL,

SHOOTER'S HILL, S.E.

The Brook War Hospital, Shooter's Hill, is just our old friend the Brook Fever Hospital, one of the hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, commandeered by the War Office, and converted into a Military Hospital, with Lieutenant-Colonel Byles as Commanding Officer, and Miss E. M. Bann in the uniform of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve as Matron. The expense of upkeep is borne by the War Office, and the nursing staff is selected by the Matron, and their uniform is selected by her. The uniform chosen for the Sisters is military grey washing material with scarlet stripes at the wrist, and with it is worn the Army cap. The staff nurses wear grey with sleeves to the elbow, and white sleeves to slip on to meet them.

The capacity of the hospital is some 1,000 beds, a considerable increase on that under the M.A.B., where the beds were placed very wide apart. Now the wards hold 43 beds easily counting the separate side ward in which are three beds—a very great advantage as specially serious cases, and suspicious cases of infectious disease, can be isolated.

The Brook Hospital is extremely well planned. Each ward is approached by a short corridor, on one side of which is the small ward aforementioned and the kitchen, and on the other a larder, the linen store, and the bath room. At the farther end of the wards are wide balconies where patients can be nursed day and night in the open air.

A certain number of the M.A.B. probationers have remained in the hospital and the Board will recognize a year's service, combined with two year's infectious work as qualifying for its certificate. Some V.A.D. workers also undertake some of the domestic work, and clerical work connected with the hospital. An innovation in a military hospital is the employment of ward maids, instead of orderlies, but as far as possible men are being released for active service. Women also reign in the kitchen and the laundry. In the former there is a busy staff who cook for the patients as well as the medical, nursing, and domestic staff. An interesting machine in use there is one which slices bacon into rashers of appetising thickness (or should it be thinness?); the meat also after being boned is cut into temping slices by the same machine.

Another section of the hospital includes two new theatres, spacious and admirably arranged and fitted with every requirement. The electric lights are excellently concealed, with the exception of one over the operating table, in zinc troughs, the light being reflected against the ceiling and diffused. In the adjoining sterilizing room, drums of dressings are sterilized daily for the wards as well as for the theatre.

The X-ray room, which is also a new addition, is a most interesting department—shrapnel, bullets, and other foreign bodies can be localized

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