

the hospital who are serving with His Majesty's Forces, while the Matron, Miss C. E. A. Thorpe, who served under the Belgian Red Cross in the early days of the war in 1914, has been decorated with the Royal Red Cross by His Majesty the King in connection with her work at Mons.

In the hall I met with the mother of one of the soldiers who had been admitted to the military ward on the previous day, communicative in her joy at seeing one of her two boys home from the front. "He can't speak yet, but it lifts a load from one's heart to see his dear face. You don't know whether you will ever see them again. Have you come to see anyone belonging to you?"

The men in the military ward seem cheery and happy. One who has been there since August had previously been a prisoner in Germany. "How did they treat you?" I asked. "It was awful," replied the man. He is still confined to his bed, but is content and happy. Several of the patients were on the wide verandah at the end of the ward.

THE OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT.

In the outpatient department, to which I was escorted by the most courteous Secretary—Mr. D. D. Kirkaldy, B.A.—there was abundant evidence that it is extensively used. Indeed, the outpatient attendances have increased by ten per cent., viz., from 31,016 to 34,230, an attendance which shows how greatly the hospital is appreciated. The number of applications of massage and electrical treatment to out-patients was 14,245; and to in-patients, 10,446, being 3,150 more than in 1914.

THE CHAPEL.

Passing on from the outpatient department, one comes unexpectedly on the Chapel, used both as a mortuary chapel in case of need, and also by the nursing staff for daily prayers. The space is small, but every inch has been used to the best advantage, and one may travel far without finding so reverent and beautiful a chapel. The prevailing note is the deep blue one sees in the sky on a clear starlit night. Guarding the entrance to the sanctuary are two angels. Suspended in front of the altar is a large crystal cross; and in small recesses, at the level of the clerestory, are small

statues of saints. It would be difficult to imagine anything more harmonious or more calculated to inspire devotion.

THE COST OF DRUGS.

Everybody at the present day realises the increased cost of provisions, and household requisites, but the immense increase in the cost of many drugs is not so well appreciated. Thus, in 1913, the hospital paid £136 6s. 6d. for 13 cwt. 60 lbs. of Bromide Salts, and in 1915 £294 14s. 4d. for 12 cwt. 72 lbs. of the same drug. In 1913 70 lbs. of Salicylate of Soda cost £4 10s., while, in 1915, 35 lbs. cost £21 2s. 10d., and even this, owing to foresight in securing stocks, does not show the full rise. Bromide of Potassium, which before the war cost 1s. 6½d. per lb., has now been quoted at 27s. 6d., without any guarantee of delivery,



WEST END HOSPITAL, CHILDREN'S BALCONY.

and 18s. has had to be paid for Sodium Bromide, which before the war cost 1s. 10d.

WELCOME HOSPITALITY.

The difficulty of accommodation for the nursing staff has had to be met owing to their home having been given up to accommodate invalided soldiers, but the committee is fortunate in its friends, for the necessity for taking and furnishing another house has been obviated by the hospitality extended to the nurses for many months by Lady Manners, Lady Portsmouth, Mrs. Gosling, and Lady Emily Digby; and other kind friends have in emergencies received nurses at almost a moment's notice.

THE SCHOOL OF MASSAGE.

Twenty students from other training schools have received practical instruction in the hospital and it is hoped in the near future to considerably enlarge the School of Massage and Electricity.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)