

## TERRITORIAL HOSPITALS.

### FIRST EASTERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, CAMBRIDGE.

The First Eastern General Hospital (T.F.), Cambridge differs from others inasmuch as it is an open-air hospital, and seen on a hot August afternoon the arrangement seemed to be ideal. The whole of one side of each ward is absent, though strong blinds can, if necessary, be drawn, and the patients lie facing the gardens, bright with beautiful flowers, while the soft air circulates freely through the ward and fans the drawn faces of the men, many of them, alas hectic and feverish as the result of suppurating wounds.

By the courtesy of the Commanding Officer, Colonel Griffiths, and the Matron, Miss A. Macdonald, I was able to see this interesting hospital. Miss Macdonald, like the Principal Matron, Miss Crookenden, of Addenbrooke's Hospital, was trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, as was also Miss Wills, an Assistant of Miss Amy Hughes, of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, who kindly acted as my cicerone.

The size of the hospital is rather bewildering to the stranger who arrives within its gates, the number of beds being at present 1,670; 1,570 in the huts, and 100 more in tents, besides 300 in schools in the town. However, a sign happily hung out, "Here toileth ye Registrar," gave the clue to the official headquarters, the office of the Registrar, Major Hughes, being close to that of the Matron, where Miss Wills was then on duty and soon we were on our way to the bath ward.

Here were some of the worst cases, illness and suffering being evident on every face, but it was good to know that the treatment was not only remedial but soothing, and the patients are loth to return to ordinary beds again. I learned that when the King visited the hospital last week his Majesty was very interested in this ward, and gave much pleasure to the men by speaking to each of them. There are six baths in the ward, and I was told that eighteen could always easily be filled, but the cost of installing the baths, and the electric plant necessary to keep the temperature of the

water at a uniform temperature of about 100 degrees Fahr. is considerable—£800 for this one ward—so a number of impotent folk are waiting for their turn to enter the healing waters of this modern Bethesda, and one can imagine no expenditure which would give the donor greater satisfaction than to know that he had been the means of bringing relief, and healing, to the men who hide their suffering with such resolute courage, while the sight of the maimed, wounded, tortured limbs is pitiful indeed.

Like all the wards at the First Eastern Hospital the bath ward is bright and gay, indeed one's impression was that the pretty display of bunting was a remnant of the King's visit. It is, however, the usual dress of the hospital. The baths at first are not obvious as they are covered with boards covered with quilts. It is only when

a section is turned back that one realizes that the patient is immersed in water, sees the foot with the heel shot away comfortably supported so that nothing but water touches it, or the infected knee joint with tubes through it, progressing so that the patient with light in his eyes announces that for the first time he can move it to-day. The temperature of the bath is controlled and recorded: a daily chart being kept. The baths are emptied and cleansed every morning by the night nurse, otherwise, unless there is any special indication to the contrary, the patient remains in the bath for twenty-four hours.

The hospital stands in the playing fields of King's and Clare, and near by the bath ward the pavilion has been added to and converted into charming mess rooms for the nursing

staff—they are comfortably housed, the members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service at King's College, and the Red Cross workers at Selwyn.

Near the bath ward also is the Recreation Room where the men can write letters, read papers, and where entertainments often take place, an excellent permanent stage having been erected for the purpose. In the Recreation Room there are five fireplaces—the only ones in the hospital. Beyond the hut is the bowling green where such men as are able can enjoy out-door sports.



MISS A. MACDONALD.

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