

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS.

The opening of the American Women's Hospital for Officers at 98 and 99, Lancaster Gate (of which Lady Randolph Churchill is Chairman), on March 21st, drew a large and distinguished gathering for its formal inauguration. One of these two fine mansions has been generously lent for the period of the war, and the other one is rented. The lofty rooms are well adapted for their purpose; the walls throughout are distempered in soft grey colour. The largest ward contains twelve beds and opens out on to a balcony overlooking the park. The bedsteads,

There is a finely equipped theatre, and the recreation room running the length of the house, corresponding to the long ward in the adjoining house, also had its balcony overlooking the park, and contained a fine billiard table and many inviting chairs covered with gay chintzes.

The first convoy of patients were expected on March 26th, and accommodation is provided for forty-two officers. There was no opening ceremony, but the crowded staircases and rooms proved the eager interest taken in this new proof of the generosity of American women towards our wounded.

Tea was served in the dining-rooms, and the V.A.D.'s proved efficient and smiling attendants. The Matron, Miss M. Illingworth, holds the certifi-



THE MATRON.

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GROUP OF TRAINED STAFF ON OPENING DAY.

which are enamelled white, are covered with white piqué quilts and blue silk eiderdowns, and the most inviting pillows possible were awaiting the occupants. The floors were covered with linoleum of soft blue colour, and pretty mats were beside each bed. Lining the staircase were bebies of V.A.D.'s, both English and American, the latter being distinguishable by the absence of the Red Cross. Five fully-trained Sisters and eight trained Staff Nurses are responsible under the Matron for the actual nursing, which we were gratified to learn is to be entirely in skilled hands, the voluntary staff being kept strictly to service duties.

cate of Guy's Hospital, and that of the I.S.T.M. She has also served in the French Military Hospital at Dinard.

The Matron (Miss Illingworth) was uniformed entirely in white, and the Sisters wore blue linen. Every grade had adopted the turned down soft collar, slightly open at the neck, worn by American nurses, which is no doubt far more comfortable for nursing purposes than the severe linen collar which has for so long been a distinctive feature in our nursing uniforms.

We wish all success to this new enterprise, and are sure our wounded officers will keenly appreciate so much kindly thought and generous outlay.

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