

DOLLIS HILL HOUSE AUXILIARY HOSPITAL.

Open-air treatment in a large number of diseases and operation cases, must, of necessity, appeal to the modern and enlightened nurse. It is the work of Dame Nature to care for her stricken children, and we can imagine no class of sufferers she would more successfully treat than that of our wounded soldiers.

For the carrying out of this treatment the authorities of the Endell Street Military Hospital have acquired Dollis Hill House as a Auxiliary Hospital, to which the men are drafted to complete their convalescence. This fine house, standing at a high altitude and commanding a magnificent view of the surrounding country and in close proximity to the fine Gladstone Park, was once the favourite retreat of Mr. Gladstone, who frequently sought refuge there from his arduous duties. Mark Twain also occupied the house for one summer, and congratulated the Willesden people on their possession of such a rural park "within a biscuit throw of London."

Such personalities create an atmosphere in places where they have dwelt, and thus Dollis Hill House is fortunate within and without. There is accommodation for fifty-two patients, and this number has been made possible by the addition of the open-air huts. Some few beds are placed upon the verandah itself, but the more desirable plan is adopted in the majority of cases—of beds being

in wards which open out on the verandah beyond. This minimises the inconvenience which would arise in very rough and inclement weather, and in no sense depreciates the treatment, as the verandahs are roofed with glass, but are quite open in front. In very boisterous weather, however, the sail-cloth curtains can be drawn, still plenty of air entering.

The Commandant, Mrs. Aubrey Richardson, is a daughter-in-law of Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, who was one of the pioneers of open-air treatment, and she has been able to contribute some very valuable suggestions.

The "Newfoundland" hut is supported by members of St. John's Ambulance Association in Newfoundland, and the beds in another hut are supported by the scholars in the various Council

schools of the neighbourhood. One of the nursing staff has fashioned very cleverly in cotton wool a model of the ship *Matthew*, in which the discoverers of Newfoundland sailed.

A ward on the first floor is reserved for cases for whom open-air treatment is unsuitable.

Operation and nerve cases derive great benefit from the treatment and the patients themselves much appreciate it.

They are, of course, well supplied with warm clothing and hot bottles.

The Lady Superintendent, Mrs. Clayton, is the wife of a local medical man now at the Front, was trained at the London Hospital, and held the post for four years of Sister at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. She is assisted by two trained Sisters, two Masseuses, and a staff of V.A.D. assistants. Two School Nurses in the neighbourhood give some of their spare time for relief work.

We understand that the nursing arrangements



DOLLIS HILL HOUSE
AUXILIARY HOSPITAL, CLASS A.

are satisfactory and harmonious—each one being content to work in her own sphere, thus obtaining the best results possible.

The medical staff at Endell Street are well pleased with the progress of their patients, and the men themselves speak highly of the care and attention they receive.

Many of these sick lads, far away from home and friends, deeply appreciate the home-like atmosphere of the hospital. One man, on his second admission, remarked that it was like coming home.

All nurses are familiar with the hospitalised appearance of patients, who, after severe operations, have to remain long in an enclosed ward, and how often their convalescence seems to "stick."

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