

were received by Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) at Kensington Palace last week before proceeding to France. The Unit has been placed at the disposal of the British War Office.

It is reported from France that Miss Beadsmore Smith has been recalled from Malta to act as Matron-in-Chief there, in Q.A.I.M.N. Service, in place of Miss Macarthy, who has been temporarily incapacitated by illness.

In a leading article on "The Medical Services in the Somme Advance," the *British Medical Journal* says:—

"Throughout the winter the casualties were relatively light. There were a good many cases of sickness, but not for the most part of a serious kind—colds, coughs, sore throats, *et id genus omne*. It has, in short, been a fairly healthy winter on the whole, and the domestic rather than military character of the cases in hospital has been heightened by sundry outbreaks of measles—especially at the bases. Of these domestic troubles, the nursing staffs have had their share to the full. This is only what might be expected. Many of the nurses have been in France for a long time, and a nurse's life in a military hospital in France is, on the whole, a good deal more trying than that of an average member of the staff of a civil general or other hospital. She bears the strain to the full when things get busy, but cannot share entirely the benefit of slack times. The routine of a ward must be maintained, even though it contain no more than half-a-dozen patients, and these men who are not very seriously ill. There can never be any release from the perpetual cleaning; in fact, if ever a hospital be so short of patients as to allow of a ward being cleared, it is the signal for the immediate "spring cleaning," so to speak, of the ward and for its general renovation; in this, of course, the sisters and nurses play the leading part.

"If the British army has to spend another winter under conditions anything like those experienced last winter, there will be plenty of justification for any philanthropic folk who are willing to open a convalescent home on the Riviera for nurses. One has been at work all the winter at Mentone, and has proved of immense value to those who were able to visit it. But these were a very small proportion of the nurses who might have gone there with advantage, for there was room for only a little over a dozen convalescents."

Prince Delgorcoukoff, the General in command of the Roumanian front, lately visited the Dr. Elsie Inglis Hospital at Reni to confer the Medal of St. George for bravery on two of the wounded soldiers. Afterwards he asked to see all the staff at the hospital, and when they had assembled he gave the Medal of St. George to each, with the exception of Dr. Laird, who received the Service Medal. She joined the unit after the retreat in the Dobrudja, and has not yet had the experience of working under fire.

## THE BROOK WAR HOSPITAL.

On Saturday, April 28th, by invitation of the Committee, many friends interested in the "Patients' occupation" visited the Brook War Hospital, Shooters' Hill, where an exhibition and sale of Patients' Handiwork was held, partly to help towards equipping the mortuary and partly to obtain funds for fresh materials for work. The matron, Miss E. M. Bann, received the guests, and sisters, nurses and war probationers combined to make the visitors at home, to show them the chief things of interest, both in the exhibition and hospital, and to serve tea most excellently made—hot, refreshing and delicious.

The pewter modelling exhibits were greatly admired, some bright, others oxydised, but all very charming. The first prize was won by Private Evans, M. 1 Ward, for a round box, with a ruby-coloured centre inset in the pewter, which was modelled with a rose of conventional design. Other prize winners of high merit in this class were Corporal H. Wood, M. 1, and Sergt. Cowburn, M. 1.

In the Pen Painting Section, Private Smith won the first prize for a blue toilet table set, decorated in pink and mauve. An oblong carved jardinière in dark oak, lined with tin, painted dark green, made by Private H. G. Ison, C. 2, was highly commended, as was also the chair back embroidered by Private Ranno, D. 1, with a topical inscription under the plum and apple trees.

Among the baskets, the first prize was won by Mr. John Watson, J. 1, whose exhibit was a charming round basket, with lid, closely woven, with a deep red note introduced here and there.

In the stitchery section the first prize was won by Lance-Corporal Cutland, A. 1, for a square table centre, blue, embroidered in white.

A wool door mat, of which the prevailing note was cherry colour, by Private Hough, H. 1 Ward, deserved the high commendation it received.

## THE MORTUARY.

The mortuary has had much care and thought expended on its arrangement. As one approaches it one sees scarlet geraniums and other flowering plants in the window boxes. Inside is a simple bed—indeed the chamber might almost be a well-cared-for bedroom. But at one end is an altar draped in blue linen, with a cross and the sacred monogram embroidered in white, and above are the words, "Eternal rest grant them." On the walls hang reproductions of sacred pictures by the old masters, and near the ceiling above them, in gold lettering on a blue ground, are the words, "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God," and "In Christ shall all be made alive." It is a place to bring consolation to the bereaved.

## JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The following Sisters have been deputed to duty abroad:—*Boulogne Headquarters*.—Miss Hendrith, Miss M. E. Dormer, Miss H. M. Staunton, Miss E. J. M. Staunton. *La Panne*.—Miss M. Bell-Milner, Miss M. L. Greaves. *Brigade Hospital, Etaples*.—Miss Banks.

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