

SOUTHWARK MILITARY HOSPITAL.

Southwark War Hospital, which was originally the East Dulwich Poor Law Infirmary provides accommodation for more than 800 patients. In addition there are three auxiliary hospitals connected with it, which each draw upon the parent institution for domestic stores, bed linen, &c., so it may be seen that the Matron's administrative powers are severely taxed.

In spite of the fact that our visit came close upon the heels of the Committee Meeting, and on the day of the examination of the probationers, the Matron, Miss R. Wallace, with the greatest courtesy and kindness found time to show us a great deal of the hospital working. There is a large proportion of Colonial troops, Australians, South Africans, and Canadians, and we are told that they are delightful patients, so cheery and so very pleased and grateful for all that is done for them.

We met on our way to the hospital the simple funeral of one of the South African men, the coffin covered with the Union Jack, and his comrades preceding the hearse. Far away from home and friends, they supplied the only mourners.

We were taken to the Chapel where the service had just been held, and we felt that here in this hospital, there was an atmosphere that is too often lacking elsewhere.

On Sunday morning there is a sort of Church Parade and the Chapel is well filled, but at the early Communion Service, and on Sunday evening the voluntary attendance is good also.

The wards are long and bright, and we were struck by the large number of men in bed, but even these were smoking and reading or playing games. There was a complete absence of anything like irritating restraint, and as a result it was not surprising to hear the Matron say that she had no trouble at all in the management of her large family.

Tents are erected in the grounds for the sleeping accommodation of some of the men who are up all day, and these are comfortably fitted with bedsteads and lockers and are cosy and warm.

Large convoys come in from time to time, and they have had the honour of receiving the wounded Canadians after the recent great rush when they covered themselves with glory, and the Anzacs after their historic struggle at Gallipoli.

Everything possible is done at the Southwark War Hospital to alleviate their suffering, and to render less wearisome the time of convalescence, and we think they are fortunate in being under the capable and discriminating lady who is chief of the nursing staff. "Think," she says, "of what they have done for us."

In order that the V.A.D. probationers may be of more use to the sisters and staff nurses, Miss Wallace allows them to share the lectures of the first year probationers.

The huge pile of buildings and grounds when we were there were gay and fragrant with hyacinths.

H. H.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND DIRECT REPRESENTATION.

The Supplement to the *British Medical Journal*, May 5th, reports that the Annual Representative Meeting of the Association will be held in London on July 26th and receive reports on the enormous amount of work both for the medical profession and the public accomplished by the various committees during the year. The Medico-Political Committee deals with the State Registration of Nurses, Clause 86, and reports that:—

The A.R.M., 1916 (Min. 147), instructed the Council to take into consideration the possibility of establishing by means of the proposed Bill of the College of Nursing Ltd., the general principles desired by the Association in respect of State Registration of Nurses, and whether the Association would be justified in supporting the Bill. For the present the negotiations with the College of Nursing are interrupted, but the Council has instructed the representatives of the Association on the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses to join with the other bodies represented on that Committee in any further attempts which may be made to construct an agreed Bill, and meanwhile to aid in the present policy of that Committee in introducing a Bill into Parliament on its own account. The Council has also taken steps to secure that representatives of the medical profession upon provisional and permanent Nursing Councils under any such Bill shall be nominated by the Association.

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION.

The *American Journal of Nursing* announce that the Bill for State Registration in South Dakota, which became a law on January 24th, adds another to the States having laws in operation, the total number now being 43. The nurses in this State have succeeded in obtaining an exceedingly good Bill, and its passage through both Houses occupied only four days. The Law is compulsory. The Board of Examiners is composed of three nurses, nominated by the State Association of Nurses, and one member of the State Board of Health appointed by the Governor.

Forty-three States have now Nurses' Registration Acts in operation, and the first was passed in 1903. With one exception, we believe, the administering Boards are nominated by State Nurses' Organisations, and the professional standards defined and administered by them.

Compare this marvellous progress in the great Republic with the abysmal ignorance and jealous obstruction in this country, where, after thirty years unceasing work by professional nurses, laymen still demand the right to evolve their professional standards and control their professional lives. It does not take a Solomon to realise the remedy!

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)