

HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

The conservation of the health of munition workers is of much importance, not only for the workers themselves, but for the efficient maintenance of a most essential industry; and it is therefore of great interest to know something of the arrangements made for their care.

At the great munitions works at Woolwich some 30,000 women and girls are employed; and inside the Arsenal fourth Gate is a hospital for women of forty beds, the entire medical staff of which are medical women. The Medical Officer in Charge is Dr. Wilson, and Dr. M. Lister is second in command.

To show the rapid growth of the hospital work it may be stated that in July of last year there were two residents; in August, three; in December, four; and at the present time, five. The number may seem large for a hospital for forty beds, but the work includes much more than the care of patients admitted to the wards. All the women employed in the munition works are thoroughly examined by a medical officer before being taken on, special observations being made as to the presence of hernia, varicose veins and flat feet, which are of fairly frequent occurrence in those presenting themselves. Cubicles are provided for undressing, and when examined by the medical officer privacy is ensured by curtains on either side of the examinee.

The Nursing Staff, five in number, are members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, Sister Lind being Sister-in-Charge, and they are assisted by eight V.A.D.'s. The quarters of the nurses, while quite simple, are very attractive, the sitting room having walls pale mauve in colour, with curtains of a deep shade of purple, the easy chairs look very inviting, and the general impression is pleasant and harmonious. Through the sitting room is a small dining room.

In the surgery are four beds for accident cases; and the out-patient department, large as it seems, is proving inadequate for the demands upon it. It is to be enlarged, and connected with the hospital by a covered way.

The hospital proper consists of a medical and a surgical ward, and the cases are both acute and interesting. There are, of course, some bad accidents, and doctor and sister agreed as to the pluck of the girls, who have been injured in serving their country, and who endure their sufferings with heroism.

In some of the medical cases, due to the toxic nature of the explosives among which the girls work, a characteristic symptom seems to be puffiness of the face.

The great munition sheds are a hive of industry, and even on Saturday afternoon, when our visit was paid, the work was going on at full pressure. The majority of the women and girls wear trousers and tunics, and large numbers are employed in making cases for bullets and cartridges. Very earnest and deft they seem as they

bend over their work—work which the nation knows well is necessary for the adequate supply of those munitions to our army in the field. Our heroic soldiers depend, and may with confidence depend, on the women not failing them.

Close to the munition works is a canteen, run by voluntary workers, a most necessary and welcome department. To see the women pouring out of the sheds when their work is over is a sight not readily forgotten, the main thoroughfare to the nearest gate being a seething mass of humanity.

There is also a hospital for the men workers within the gates, of which Miss Todd is Matron.

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

In Sir Douglas Haig's despatch published in the *London Gazette* on May 29th the names of the following trained nurses and lady helpers appear:—

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE (11).—Sister (Acting Matron) Miss M. L. Kaberry, Sister (Acting Matron) Miss C. Mackay, Sister (Assistant Matron) Miss C. Macrae, Sister Miss C. W. Jones, Staff Nurse (Acting Matron) Miss G. D. Morris, Staff Nurse (Assistant Matron) Miss M. J. Branson, Staff Nurse (Assistant Matron) Miss C. R. Townend, Staff Nurse (Acting Sister) Miss H. Dey, Staff Nurse (Acting Sister) Miss J. D. C. McPherson, Staff Nurse (Acting Sister) Miss C. M. Roy, Staff Nurse (Acting Sister) Miss J. F. Watson.

CIVIL HOSPITAL RESERVE (14).—Staff Nurse Miss J. C. Adam (St. Thomas'), Acting Sister Miss I. E. M. Barbier (Bristol Royal Infirmary), Staff Nurse Miss C. Brodie (The London), Acting Sister Miss H. Crawford (Edinburgh Royal), Staff Nurse Miss E. Douglas (Westminster), Acting Sister Miss M. K. Hall (St. Bartholomew's), Acting Sister Miss F. M. Hepburn (Guy's), Staff Nurse Miss G. Hester (University College Hospital), Acting Sister Miss S. M. Leacy (The London), Acting Sister Miss E. M. Lord (Queen's Hospital, Birmingham), Acting Sister Miss C. McDonald (Glasgow Royal), Acting Sister Miss E. S. Newton (Cheltenham Royal Infirmary), Staff Nurse Miss F. E. Southcott (Guy's), Staff Nurse Miss M. Wright (Wolverhampton General Hospital).

LADY HELPERS (13).—Rachel, the Countess of Dudley, Aimée Geraldine Lady Michelham, Lady Mabelle Egerton, Lady Angela Forbes, Miss Louisa Barber, Miss Beatrix Brice-Miller, Mrs. Mary Brice-Miller, Miss Mary Chavasse, the Hon. Lady Murray, Miss Mary Northcote, Miss Lilian Russell, Miss Helen Wilson, Miss Margaret Workman.

A feature of this list is the first appearance of the name of an American woman. This is Staff Nurse Miss E. T. Sharp, of the first Harvard Unit.

The King will hold a special Investiture in Hyde Park on Saturday, June 2nd, for the bestowal of decorations on officers and men of the Navy and Army and members of the nursing service. It will be a very inspiring sight, as several "heroes" are to attend.

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