

of the time, she was in temporary charge of the hospital.

Sister Douglas has been awarded the Papal Red Cross. She has served at Lemnos and in France.

We are indebted to the Editor of the *Nottinghamshire Guardian* for kindly lending the very attractive photograph of Miss Gertrude Knight, Matron of the General Hospital, Nottingham, receiving a welcome from the patients, after being decorated by the King with the Royal Red Cross.

The War Office now announces that it has decided to make an immediate, but strictly limited trial of the scheme for organizing hospital units which Sir James Fowler proposed in the *Times*. The central idea of this scheme is that "The regiment never dies." Thus the tradition of a great hospital would inspire the unit with *esprit de corps*. The scheme has already been tried with great success, as Mr. Thomas Hayes, Clerk to the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, points out in Monday's *Times*. He writes:—

"When the formation of Territorial hospitals was first suggested in 1908, St. Bartholomew's, as the oldest and one of the largest hospitals in the kingdom, was invited to give its adherence to the scheme. The members of the staff at once entered into the project, and were commissioned as the officers, whose services would be available on mobilization, of a complete military base hospital." (The late Matron, Miss Isla Stewart, as a member of the Mansion House Committee, took the deepest interest in the scheme and organized most ably the Nursing Department; at her lamentable death in 1910, to maintain the *esprit de corps*, Miss Cox Davies, trained at St. Bartholomew's, was elected to succeed her, instead of the new matron trained at the London Hospital.) "Within six weeks of the outbreak of war, premises were found at Camberwell, a hospital of 520 beds was equipped, and patients were being received. The nursing was undertaken entirely by present or past members of the nursing staff of St. Bartholomew's, and a majority of the orderlies were students of the hospital. This unit, known as the 1st London (City of London) General Hospital, has since extended its accommodation, and is now equipped for the reception of 1,400 patients. It may further be of interest to mention that, in response to requests from the War Office, the staff of St. Bartholomew's has on two occasions offered to provide a complete nucleus—medical and nursing—for an overseas hospital."

The Units sent from the United States are also organized on this basis.

In an interview in last Sunday's *Observer* with Mr. Edward Marshall, the American correspondent, Sir Alfred Keogh gave a very interesting sketch of medical and hospital work during the war, and expressed his appreciation of the assistance which America has already rendered. He

concluded by saying, "Above all, let all keep their heads, organize slowly, and don't rush it. I would further, if I may be permitted so to do, wish to emphasise to the organisers the importance of taking the brains of women very seriously. Women have done magnificent work here, and to them none owes a greater debt of gratitude than I do."

Yet it is Sir Alfred Keogh who is responsible for the most insulting "Serf Clause" in the Nurses' Agreement with the War Office. If he means what he says about women, let him have the offending Clause eliminated at the earliest possible moment.

The hospital for Belgian wounded at La Panne has recently been provided with a small Anglican church for the use of the nurses, the few British wounded, chiefly aviators, who sometimes find their way to the hospital, and the members of the British Mission attached to the Belgian Headquarters. A chaplain from the Naval Air Service Headquarters at Malo, Dunkirk, has from the beginning, held services in the hospital, coming over on Sunday evening after holding seven or eight other services at various posts, spending the night at the hospital and holding service again on Monday morning before returning to his own work. The little church, which was designed by Monsieur Hobé, a prominent Belgian architect, holds ninety persons. Many generous gifts were received towards the building, and other friends have provided altar linen, communion vessels, books, a small harmonium, &c.

The consecration ceremony took place on Whitsun eve, May 26th, and was conducted by Bishop Bury, Anglican Bishop of Northern Europe, who came for the purpose.

This is the first instance of an Anglican church being built and consecrated for permanent use in the "Zone des Armées." The nearness of the enemies' lines and our own was emphasised by the fact that during the consecration service the cannonade was distinctly heard; also the movements of the Allied observation aeroplanes and the attempts of the anti-aircraft guns to pick off a distant Taube.

Services were also held on Whitsunday, and in the evening the Bishop gave a most interesting address to the nurses and others on what he had seen and experienced on the occasion of his recent visits to the prisoners' camps in Germany. He was afterwards received by King Albert, who, with the Queen, takes a great interest in all that concerns the comfort and happiness of the English women who have come out to help the Belgians in their time of need. This hospital is one of the best-equipped and installed of those on the Western Front; it has now been in existence two and a half years.

For the past eight months Miss Violetta Thurstan has been Matron of the Hôpital de l'Océan at La Panne, and her untiring and devoted work has resulted in greatly improved organisation in the nursing department.

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