

presided over by Miss Dale, a qualified chemist, assisted by Miss Cornish. A great laundry, too, always fills the writer with admiration, with its many and wondrous labour-saving machines. It seems to epitomize in itself the romance of engineering! There are the "drying horses," the "airing horses," the "collar-machine" for ironing collars, the "hydro" wringer, with its 15,000 revolutions a minute! All these mysteries we take for granted in this engineering age—but where and how would hospitals stand without them! In some of the "airing courts"—where fever patients previously took their airing—two wards for officers have been erected. (N.B.—These are not structural alterations but new structures.) Not only did the patients in the wards appear cheerful and happy, but many of them were doing beautiful embroidery in coloured silks. It was difficult to believe that men's unaccustomed fingers could, in so short a time, have acquired such proficiency. One man suffering from trench feet, had thus used his hands and raised £12 for the Red Cross Society in this way!

The extent of the hospital may be imagined by the fact that one of the corridors is a quarter of a mile long, and also that it stands on twenty-two acres of ground. A luxuriant growth of virginia creeper covers many of the walls and frames the windows, giving the main building a very effective appearance, surrounded as it is with a particularly beautiful garden full of flowers and variegated shrubs. There are two well-equipped theatres, massage rooms, Rontgen ray room, and lastly a very large room which is shortly to be used for electrical installation for every kind of treatment by that beneficial agency. The nurses who are employed in this hospital are to be congratulated, not only because of the useful work they have the privilege of doing but because they have, in the Matron and Col. Goodall, superior officers with minds set to progress, who are good friends to the nursing profession, as well as to individual nurses. They fully realize that State Registration of Nurses under an Act of Parliament, on just and democratic lines, is the only thing that will uplift a profession that we are all proud of, and restore its prestige. Some nurses may not be aware of how much Col. Goodall has done in the cause of this much-needed reform in the nursing profession, so the writer takes this opportunity of telling them, for we all like to acknowledge our indebtedness and to say "thank you." In the course of a most enjoyable conversation over "the cup that cheers but not inebriates" the Matron told her visitor that some of the men had said the hospital was like home to them; the reason is very obvious, and I can truthfully say my visit was one of the most pleasant I ever remember to have paid to a hospital—military or civil—and I came away much refreshed in mind and body.

Miss E. Margaret Fox, late Matron of the Prince of Wales Hospital, Tottenham, has been awarded the St. George Medal, a Russian decoration, for bravery during an air raid at Ismail.

"ETHER DAY."

If we were to stretch our imagination to the extent of picturing the condition of the wounded victims and heroes of this unprecedented war, big with "frightfulness" of every description, without the inestimable boon of *anæsthesia*, we should become cold at the thought, and deliberately turn from it; we prefer to cherish the happier thought that we possess that blessed alleviation of suffering, and are making greater demands upon its production than has ever been made before. Ought we not, however, at this psychological moment, to direct our minds to the "limbo of forgotten things" and recall with intensive gratitude those courageous men (as all discoverers are) to whom the *world at war* owes so much? The honoured name of Sir James Simpson will immediately appear before our mental vision, not as the discoverer of chloroform—it had already been discovered by the great German chemist Liebig—but he discovered *its power as an anæsthetic*. The manner in which this power was discovered is so extraordinary, that it is worth relating: "Simpson specialised in obstetrics, and he wanted some drug that would enable the obstetrician to be more useful in difficult cases. Ether was not good enough, Simpson sought for something better. He gave orders that any promising drug or new compound discovered by the chemists was to be sent to him. He and a very select company of friends met regularly in his dining-room, and after dinner, as they sat round the table, they each inhaled the vapour of one promising compound after another. . . . For long their experiments led to nothing." Then a sample of chloroform was sent. "When Simpson came to, he found himself surrounded by his prostrate friends, who had succumbed, and his first thought was: 'This is much better than ether.' The anæsthetic action of chloroform had been discovered, thanks to the courage and persistence of the honourably and uniquely intoxicated company round the table." This was in the year 1847. The battle of opposition thereupon began, but very soon a mother in childbirth was brave enough to inhale the drug, with complete success. Then Queen Victoria, upon the advice of her own physician, was persuaded to inhale it for the birth of one of her children. This act completed the triumph of chloroform.

While we give all honour to Sir James Simpson for his great discovery, we must remember that he was not the first to discover and use the power of a general anæsthetic. That honour belongs to another, the native of another country. The Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, U.S.A., is famous for many things. It was founded in 1821 and famous for being the third oldest hospital in the States. It is also famous for its Research Work. As has already been recorded, Hospital Social Service, as a distinct speciality, was first established within its walls. But what its officials are most proud of is the fact that it was in this

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