

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The W.A.A.C.s are to be congratulated on now having their own hospital, arranged in a delightful country house of five rooms, surrounded by lovely gardens and splendid old trees, at Isleworth. The first sick W.A.A.C.s went there in January during the influenza epidemic, and ever since its pleasant wards have been filled with medical and surgical cases from oversea.

There are four fine wards on the ground floor, and smaller rooms for offices, and commodious quarters for the home staff.

We are to have an American hospital in London for Great Britain in commemoration of the co-operation of the medical men of the United States and of Great Britain during the European War, and to strengthen the friendship existing between the two nations.

At present there is no hospital conducted after the American system, where the American in Great Britain can be cared for after the manner of his own land. When Americans come to Europe for specialised and advanced medical study and research, London has not in the past formed one of their centres. Yet the wealth of clinical material offered by the London medical schools is unequalled by that of any other city in Europe. That is the unanimous verdict of 200 American medical officers who have been working in London during the past six months. The American medical man is likely to visit Europe more frequently in the future than in the past. This hospital will be his head-quarters in London—more than that, it would be his medical home.

No doubt American nurses will staff the hospital, and we shall have an opportunity of exchanging methods and systems of nursing with them—to our mutual advantage.

At the annual Court of Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital attention was called to the serious financial position in which the hospital stands at the conclusion of the war. There is a very heavy overdraft at the bankers, and in the past year, during which the average number of patients in the wards daily was 851, of whom 460 were military cases, the expenditure exceeded the income by £26,107. There has been a noteworthy fall in the receipts from legacies, only £586 having been received in 1918.

An exhibition of "Stray Bits in Water-colour," by F. Amica de Biden Footner, now being held at the Kensington Fine Art Gallery, 26, Alfred Place, S.W. 7, to which admission is free, includes several portraits of Florence Nightingale, painted shortly before her death, and now shewn to the public for the first time.

A VERY WELCOME VISITOR.

"A lady called to see you this afternoon, and has left her card." Miss Gardner, 2, Angell Street, Providence, U.S.A., I read, and inscribed in her own handwriting were a few words to the intent that she would call again on the chance of finding me at home. How kind, I mused, to take the trouble to call twice upon someone whom she has never seen. I awaited her arrival with sincere pleasure. Our acquaintance had been through the medium of pen and ink only; this was the shadow of the coming event of a personal acquaintance. Miss Mary S. Gardner, R.N., is one of the leading women of the Nursing Profession in the States; she is a native of New England, and was for some time the Superintendent of the District Nursing Association of Providence, Rhode Island; also President of the National Organisation of Public Health Nursing from 1913-1916. In this department she is an expert, and the valuable knowledge she possesses has been given to the public in the form of her interesting and instructive book, "Public Health Nursing," containing an introduction by Miss Adelaide Nutting, R.N., Professor of Nursing and Health, at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. The *rapprochement* of Great Britain and the United States is now so close and intimate that I feel justified in taking it for granted that our Nurses—many of whom have nursed side by side with our American sisters during the last eighteen months of the war—will be interested to hear something of the war service rendered by one of America's distinguished nurses.

The late Miss Jane A. Delano spoke thus of her soon after America joined the Allies in the war:—"Quite recently there has come into the Red Cross Organisation one who has stood for years for all that is best in Public Health work, and who is recognised by all as a woman of rare judgment, broad vision and unusual organising ability, Mary S. Gardner, of Providence, Rhode Island." She was appointed director of the Bureau of Public Health Nursing of the American Red Cross. Early in September last she was temporarily relieved of her duties at Headquarters and put in charge of a special group of sixteen nurses who were sent to Italy for public health and tuberculosis work in that country, to serve under the Red Cross Commission already there. It is worthy of note and grateful recognition that our Allies organised a splendid system of nursing assistance to the civilians of the various countries at war with Germany. Besides Italy, Commissions were sent to Russia, Greece, France and Palestine. They brought order out of chaos, looked after the women and children and organised Infant Welfare, and taught them to help themselves. It must be remembered that all these countries are far behind England and America, and the war must have given them a realisation of their great need of expert knowledge of matters pertaining to health better than anything else could have done. A.

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