

A WAR MEDAL FOR RED CROSS WORKERS.

The British Red Cross Society has struck a medal for presentation to its numerous war workers who have received no British decoration or medal. Among those entitled to receive it are all members of the Society, or its Voluntary Aid Detachments, who, during the War, gave a minimum unpaid service at home or abroad of not less than a thousand hours. In the case of ambulance drivers and bearers, the minimum number of hours is five hundred. For air raid duty, in the course of which great personal danger was in many cases incurred, there is no fixed minimum period of service and the Red Cross County Presidents will nominate for the medal in their discretion. The medal, which is in gilt with a white ribbed-silk ribbon, is the only one ever issued by the British Red Cross Society. Engraved on the obverse is the well-known symbol, with the words "For war service 1914-1918," while the reverse bears the Red Cross motto, "Inter arma caritas." Forms of application can be obtained from the Secretary, British Red Cross Society, 19, Berkeley Street, W.1. Envelopes should be marked B.R.C.S. Medal.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Her Royal Highness Princess Christian has accepted the position of President of the College of Ambulance, in Queen Anne Street, W.

With the death of Mrs. Gorrings, widow of the Buckingham Palace Road draper, eight institutions divide £461,900 amongst them; the Westminster Hospital and St. George's Hospital receive upwards of £57,000 each.

The hon. treasurer and secretary of the Liverpool Babies' Hospital (Miss Margaret Beavan) has received a cheque of £1,000 from the National Relief Fund towards the funds of the above hospital. This is one of the grants of money voted by the National Relief Fund towards the reducing of the deficits of the voluntary hospitals of the United Kingdom, and as the Liverpool Babies' Hospital was a venture promoted in war-time under very difficult conditions, this substantial grant is particularly acceptable.

The Horton Infirmary Extension Scheme, as far as it relates to the nurses' hostel, has been commenced. Better accommodation for the nurses has been badly needed for some time, so that the committee, in taking this matter in hand first, have adopted a wise course. The plans will, we hope, provide a separate bedroom for every nurse.

There seems to be good reason to believe that tuberculosis is a diminishing quantity in this country. This is revealed in the report of the Registrar-General for 1919, in which he gives a *résumé* of the mortality from this disease since 1911. The female sex only is dealt with, as the war made all statistics of males untrustworthy.

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

FOUR FLORENTINE HOSPITALS AND A MEDICAL MISSION.

In Julius Caesar Street, just across the Ponte Rosso, and right away from the congested districts of the city, there stands on high ground, a large white house in a garden of olives; the green shutters and warm red roof give it an attractive appearance, more especially when the sun—which of late has been conspicuous by its absence—shines upon it. Over the portal are inscribed the words "Medical Mission." It is essentially a business-like looking house, the outside walls are plain, there are no creepers, and there is no sculpture. The door opens mysteriously by itself as you ring the bell. A flight of stone steps leads you to the private residence of Miss Robertson, a Scotch lady who has lived all her life in Italy, and who speaks the language like a native. In her pretty drawing-room, in company with another Scotch lady, to whom I was indebted for the introduction, I was entertained to tea, and she most courteously promised to take me over the city hospitals. First, therefore, a few words about the Medical Mission itself, for the good work in connection with public health that is being done here, is probably second to none. The institution was founded by a Miss Roberts who carried on the work for some years. At her death, her co-worker, the present Superintendent, succeeded her. What strikes the visitor is the most appreciable amount of space; the rooms are large and airy; there is nothing to suggest, insidiously, high rents, and, therefore, cramped space! Two doctors attend regularly twice a week, one for young children under 10 years of age, and the other for those above that age. There is a well-equipped surgery and a room where women may be privately examined. There is also a good theatre, which was not used during the war, but can, at any time when thought desirable, revert to its original purpose. That the work supplies a need is shown by the numbers who regularly attend.

As its name suggests, the Mission has a two-fold purpose. On Sunday, religious instruction is given, there is no proselytizing, but patients of all ages, who come during the week to have the needs of the body attended to, come to listen to the truths of the Gospel. That this ministrative service is also needed, is shown by the fact that there is profound ignorance among them, Miss Robertson told me.

Long life to the Medical Mission.

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THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The situation of this hospital is less ideal, but as it is four or five hundred years old, we must adjust our minds to countless changes of circumstance and time. It is a large white stone building, probably formerly occupied by one of the great powerful families of the Florentine Republic in the hey-day of its prosperity. Florence is full of these great palaces, now used as business houses,

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