

HOW TO COMBAT GAS POISON.

Instruction in anti-gas measures and the treatment of gas-bomb casualties are to form part of the training of Voluntary Aid Detachments. Colonel T. S. Coates, Deputy Director of Medical Services, Northern Command, stated this at the annual prize distribution of the Voluntary Aid Detachments of the West Riding of Yorkshire Division at Leeds recently.

The position, he said, had to be faced, though it was difficult to get actual training in gas cases. A manual is being prepared by the War Office, and will shortly be available for use by V.A.D.s who would be expected to make themselves efficient in the measures to be taken.

Nurses of the Camberwell, London Branch, of the Voluntary Aid Detachment are training to combat poison gas attacks in time of war, thus following the lead of women all over the Continent. Wearing gas masks they demonstrated the latest measures and the speed with which these

such as the last general strike. They were making training in first aid and training in anti-gas methods and the treatment of gas casualties compulsory. They were also having fire drill and classes for shooting. There would also be special classes in preliminary aviation.

Mr. C. Tower, of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, gave the recruits their first lesson in gas mask drill.

We are glad to learn Registered Nurses are also to be instructed in self protection.

ARMISTICE DAY IN CHARING X HOSPITAL.

I think that I can never forget the impression Armistice Day made on me as a patient in the above Hospital.

The evening previously trays of poppies had been brought to the bedside of each patient, and each according to their means had obeyed the command "Give generously for your Poppy," and every patient had the Emblem that "provides freedom from pain" beside them.

It was such a very quiet night in the ward, perhaps the presence of the poppy helped (who can say?).

The silence seemed to begin at 5 a.m. with the work of the day, for nurses all tripped fairy like and by 10 a.m. there was total silence in the ward.

Bands could be heard in the street, and traffic being regulated, but in the ward no one spoke, each busy with her own thoughts.

At 10.30 each patient put on her headphones to listen in. The Flowers of the Forest is being played by the pipers of the Scots Guards, Chopin and Beethoven's funeral marches, war time melodies, Reveille, The Last Post, and then the Silence, indescribable! When in that two minutes we are with all those who have gained "The Highest Honour," "Christ's Cross"—

the "Well done, good and faithful servant." Then the outpouring of "Oh, God! Our help in ages past," from the multitude rang out and many on beds of pain in hospital nearing the unknown land of a well-known Saviour are strengthened to bear their pain.

Sir Fabian Ware gave a brief description of the war cemeteries. Our phones were hung up but perfect silence was maintained until the dinners were served.

I can never forget Armistice Day in King Edward VII. Ward where I was a patient.

JESSIE HOLMES.

The first Diploma of Fellowship (*honoris causa*) of the Incorporated Association of Hospital Officers, signed by the Duke of York, Patron of the Association, was presented at the recent Annual Meeting at St. Thomas's Hospital to Sir Arthur Stanley, Vice Patron. Subsequently Sir Arthur presented diplomas to Sir Ernest Morris, Sir James Michelli and other senior hospital secretaries.



Camberwell V.A.D.s Demonstrate Anti-Poison Gas Methods.

can be brought into use in emergency. Photo shows: An officer adjusting gas masks worn by the V.A.D.s at the demonstration.

Commandant Mary Allen, head of the Women's Auxiliary Service, is a woman of parts, and over 400 women have joined the new Women's Reserve which she is organising, and which held their first rally recently at the Central Hall, Westminster.

The uniform consists of a long double-breasted blue overcoat, a blue beret, and a coloured silk scarf. London detachments will wear buttercup yellow scarves. Green is the colour chosen for Sheffield.

Commandant Allen said her ambition was to have every woman and girl trained along some lines which might be useful to either State departments or municipal authorities in the event of war or civil emergency. They also wished to help to counteract subversive forces. They were not only prepared to serve in the event of war, but prepared to train themselves to be efficient workers in any civil trouble

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