

## ST. ANDREW'S HOSPITAL, DOLLIS HILL.

### NURSES' HOME TO BE A BRITISH MEMORIAL TO THE LATE KING ALBERT OF THE BELGIANS.

Those of us who so far have not made acquaintance with St. Andrew's Hospital, Dollis Hill, should do so when we have opportunity, for it is well worth a visit.

Founded in the year preceding the outbreak of the War, it was the first hospital to send out a nursing unit to Belgium, and at home it received the wounded, direct from the front. It is situated in a unique position on the crest of the hill, and stands in 17 acres of beautiful grounds. The authorities have thus made provision for considerable extension; they have even contemplated a landing stage for air ambulances, which will, no doubt, play an active part in the future conveyance of patients. The hospital amenities are sharing the same fate as other suburbs, and its wonderful views are marred by bricks and mortar, but its elevation

most cordially and graciously by the Matron (Sister M. Ignatius, A.R.R.C.), who was attired in the white washing habit and cap of her order, which is simply styled, "Sisters of Mercy."

She is keenly interested in modern nursing and the education of the modern nurse, and gave us the details of her methods. She takes probationers at the age of 19 for a four years' course. The hospital is a recognised training school, and they have their own Sister Tutor, lecture room and all necessary facilities. Their percentage of success in the State examination is very creditable. The nursing staff have only one rule, "Punctuality," which is strictly enforced in all departments of their training.

Some of the Sisters belong to the religious order and others are lay women. These latter and the nurses do not necessarily belong to the Roman Church.

The Matron kindly deputed her assistant to show us round, and very thoroughly and patiently she did so. The hospital is only partially built and consequently there



The Matron, Sister M. Ignatius, A.R.R.C. (in centre).

prevents any serious drawbacks on that account, and the planting of trees and shrubs does much to preserve the atmosphere of what must have formerly been a haven of peace.

The other side of the picture shows that the fast-growing population of the middle class in the district will greatly benefit by having in its midst this provision for their sick, as it is for the professional and middle classes that this hospital has its *raison d'être*. Though it is, so to speak, run by the Roman Catholic Communion, its wards are open to all creeds and nationalities. Some few beds are reserved for French-speaking nations.

A distinctive feature of this hospital is its work in plastic surgery, and the great authority in this branch (Sir Harold Gillies, C.B.E., F.R.C.S.) is the senior surgeon in this department.

Our visit, fortunately for us, coincided with one of the first days of real spring, and we were at once conscious of the restful atmosphere, as we entered the spacious grounds which lead up to the entrance, passing as we did so, the statue of Our Lady on the lawns. We were received

is only one wing with the administration block at one end instead of in the middle where it is designed to be in the future.

The "gentlemen's" ward, as it is styled, contains over 20 beds and has both medical and surgical cases. The ladies' ward over this is identical.

The top floor at present is used for the accommodation of the staff, and until the money is raised for the completion of the Nurses' Home and this floor at liberty for patients, the hospital extension is at a standstill, and the long waiting list grows day by day. The wards are veritable sun traps and correspondingly cheerful; the soft greens and blues of the walls are very soothing and restful. The wealth of charmingly disposed flowers, of course, completed the attraction. The patients in these general wards pay anything from £4 4s. down to nothing in ratio to their means. The fees for private rooms are £8 8s.

The theatre and sterilizing room are up to the standard one would expect in the way of efficiency.

There is a northern light from which one gathers a really entrancing sense of distance and space, and must, we

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