

Retirement.—The age of retirement for a Matron, 57 years; below the rank of Matron, 55 years; the maximum Pension possible for Matron, £225 yearly; Senior Sister and Sister, £140 per annum.

Passing along bright well-lighted corridors, acute Medical, Surgical, Ear, Nose and Throat Wards were visited. Everywhere the cream-tinted decorations, the sunshine penetrating many windows from which lawns and flower beds are a delightful sight on all sides, and the spacious sun balcony attached to the wards excited much admiration.

The wards are staffed by a Sister-in-Charge, Staff Nurses and Orderlies. In the course of the tour the very up-to-date theatres, sterilising-rooms, and electrical and physical treatment rooms, including a wonderful portable X-ray apparatus, were of special interest.

In the wards for the wives and families of the men of the Airport there is every arrangement for their welfare, also the Maternity section. There was noticeable throughout the Hospital an atmosphere of comfort and satisfaction, and a patient remarked in passing, "Everyone is so wonderfully good and kind, I could write a book about it."

In the Babies' Ward the pretty chintz-covered cots were much admired, also the little twins a few days old.

A rule of the Hospital allows relaxation in the wards generally during the afternoon, and in the Ear, Nose and Throat Wards patients may go to bed when they please, and such humane treatment of eliminating unnecessary restraint should play an important part in recovery.

Air lock chambers, for protection during air raids, were noted with keen interest.

The Kitchen, with its splendid pastry ovens, hot-plates, fish-fryer and steamers, and the patients' dining-room were next visited. Here the chef and his assistants in spotless white outfits officiated over trays of delicious confection.

Crossing through the grounds a strong breeze reminds one that the Hospital, in its beautiful grounds, stands among the Chiltern Hill tops, green and beautiful in all directions on this fresh Spring day. A short distance brings the class to the new Sisters' Mess, a fine building in which charming accommodation is tastefully equipped; the sitting-room with large bay window is a veritable suntrap leading to what is to be a glorious garden, of which the Sisters were full of the envisaged design to be realised when the demolition of the remaining huts of the original camp is completed. The Sisters' bed-sitting rooms, all so well lighted, with two windows, the equipment the last word in attractive decoration and convenience; the Eastern rugs in many of the rooms were much admired. From the windows of the second floor a view of Halton Camp Airport, extending for miles, can be seen to advantage. The Workshops where thousands of boys are in training for the Force, the Schools, the Barracks, married men's houses, and finally, situated on a rising eminence, the beautiful mansion, Halton House, once the home of a member of the Rothschild family and now the Officers' Mess.

The Matron then conducted the Class to the Sisters' Dining-room, an imposing apartment; the dark polished oak dining-table runs the length of the room; the chairs also are oak.

Interesting pieces of silver were arranged at the end of the Dining-room. A pair of silver King George and Queen Mary Jubilee Plaques were greatly admired, and Tennis Tournament Cups, including the Finals Cup for the whole Service, were noted with great interest.

Leading from the Dining-room is the pantry and Sisters' Mess Kitchen.

Finally on being conducted to the Sisters' General Sitting-room, where pretty chintz-covered chesterfield and easy-chairs gave welcome rest, and here the members of the party were overjoyed to meet all the Sisters at tea whom the Matron introduced forthwith. Over delicious refresh-

ments and tea most interesting chatter was exchanged. The uniform, the well-cut white drill dress and white shoes and stockings, and becoming Air Force cape, the envy we feel sure of many a civilian nurse, evoked enthusiastic praise. When asked how it was the Sisters looked so healthy and fit, the Matron considered it was probably due to the fact that in their recreation they kept up their sport, when riding, tennis, golf and swimming were included among their pastimes.

The members greatly enjoyed contact with their charming hostess, who could speak of interesting experiences, having done foreign service.

Full of admiration of the work and courtesy of these Air Force Sisters, it was felt that those responsible must indeed feel gratified.

In taking reluctant farewell of the Matron, Miss Clubb, the members of the Administration Class of the British College of Nurses expressed warm thanks and appreciation of her great kindness in receiving them and for the infinite trouble she had taken in imparting to them valuable information on the Air Force Nursing Service, and conducting them over this very fine Hospital during this memorable visit, for which they could not be too grateful.

ALICE STEWART BRYSON.

MISS M. G. ALLBUTT, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

It was with a sense of real regret that we learnt recently that, owing to ill-health Miss Allbutt, Matron of the large Municipal Hospital of Fulham, had been compelled to resign a post which she has held with much honour for fifteen and a quarter years. Miss Allbutt has had a varied career, partly owing to her determination to include in her training as many branches of her profession as was possible. She took her training in the nursing of sick children at the West Kirby Convalescent Home and Country Hospital for Children and also did specialised work in orthopaedics under that wonderful orthopaedic surgeon, the late Robert Jones of Liverpool. She went through her General Training in the Royal Infirmary of Huddersfield and subsequently was a Sister of the Children's wards at the Royal Infirmary, Wigan, and then Sister of the Female floor and out patient department of the Clayton Hospital, Wakefield. She had her Midwifery Training at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, where she was afterwards Night Superintendent, and later she became Sister Housekeeper of the hospital and was there until mobilised to serve with the Territorial Force Nursing Services in 1914. On demobilisation she became Home Sister and Sister Tutor at the Royal Infirmary, Derby. From 1920 to 1924 she was Assistant Matron at Whipp's Cross Hospital and then she undertook what was perhaps the best beloved work of all her professional life—the Matronship of Fulham Hospital. Here she found a wide field for creative energy and has many good things to tell of her work there. The guardians, who were then responsible for the administration of the hospital, she found to be a progressive body, anxious at all times to do what was best for patients and staff alike. The Hospital has about six hundred beds and is, of course, a recognised training school. During her period of office Miss Allbutt has had the joy of seeing many developments which must be a source of very deep satisfaction to her now. While she was there the first block of the new Nurses' Home was built and it was opened by Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught in 1929; the previous Home had been opened by Her late Royal Highness the Princess Christian in 1897. In 1927 a new massage department was built and the patients' kitchen modernised and its equipment brought up to date. In April, 1930, the hospital was taken over by the London County Council. Since then

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)