

## THE NAVAL HOSPITAL, NEWPORT, R. I.

BY MARY BROOKS, R.N.

*Assistant Chief Nurse*

The sinews of war are strengthening and tightening their grip upon us, gradually, steadily but consciously we are moving with the tide of events. A new order of things slips into place and is set in motion, adjusting, developing and advancing. The quiet, comfort, and luxury of our spacious 100-bed hospital of a year ago, have been superseded by the activities of a thousand-bed capacity hospital; occupied by the youth of the country, gathered from the length and breadth of our native land, casting their lot together in one great and common cause, and in some instances, sacrificing their lives just as bravely and heroically as those who are fighting in the trenches. Nor is this all, the process of growth has not yet been arrested, there are plans for still further expansion and the early summer will again hear the pounding of the hammer and the buzz of the saw in the hasty construction of additions or pavilions, to house more cots for the quota of lads who are swelling the ranks of the training camps and adjacent barracks.

This increased housing capacity for patients requires a greater and more efficient nursing service, for the sick must be nursed back to health as speedily as possible in order that they may continue their intensive training preparatory to entering actual conflict. The original staff of fifteen members of the Navy Nurse Corps has been increased to sixty-two and is still expanding. Consequently it has been necessary to increase the equipment of the quarters from time to time. To date, this has been accomplished successfully by requisitioning the roomy "annex" of our old quarters; a building with a large lower floor which has been transformed into a dormitory of fifteen beds, and ten rooms on the upper floor.

Three immense living rooms in the main building amply meet the requirements of the nurses off duty when they choose to gather for cards, music or dancing. In summer the large airy, vine-clad verandas invite relaxation and repose. There seems to be no small degree of rivalry for place, between the vines and blossoms, the delicately scented honeysuckle vying with the more gayly arrayed crimson rambler, but as the season advances both of these in their turn must quietly give way to the graceful festoons and tessellated screens of the little four-petaled white clematis that unreservedly offers both beauty and fragrance and remains with us until the glory of the summer days is past. The ample lawn with its trees and shrubs, furnish-

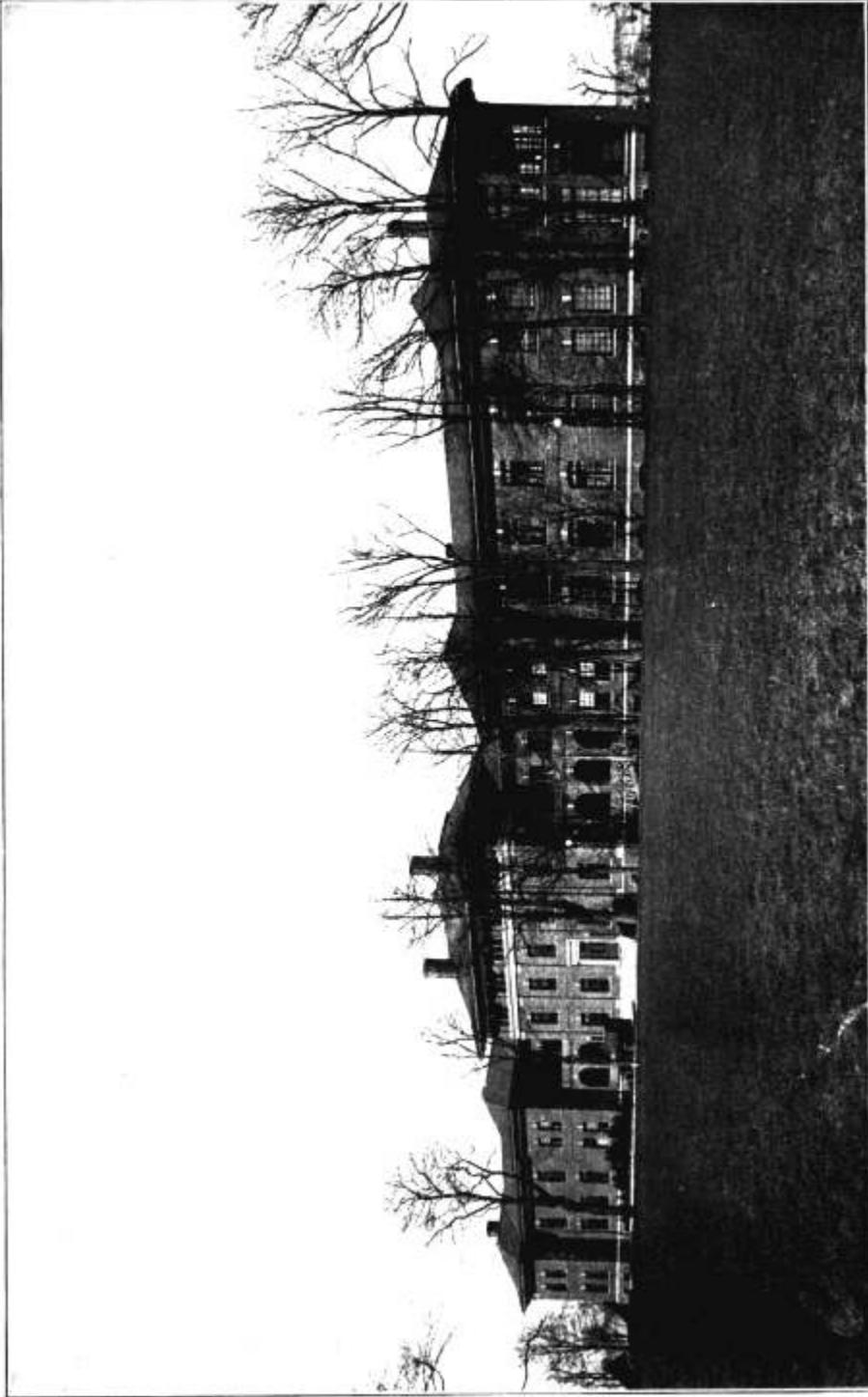
ing shade in abundance, makes it an ideal knitting and sewing room; the clicking croquet balls and the chatter of voices discussing the regulations of the game, are part of the summer-day program.

Nurses coming into the service from private duty or from duty in civil hospitals experience a divergence of routine as compared with other avenues of professional work to which they have been accustomed. The eight-hour day, which is perhaps the magnet that proves so attractive to most of those contemplating the Naval Service, is a boon to the average nurse. Adaptability and executive ability are the keynotes of successful ward management. The nurse has direct supervision of the hygiene and order of the ward, bedside instruction to the apprentices who assist in the nursing, performance of clerical work and strict supervision of the diets. No nurse has more than one daily meal coming under her service or attention. The breakfasts are supervised by the night nurses, the dinners by the morning nurses, and the suppers by the afternoon nurses.

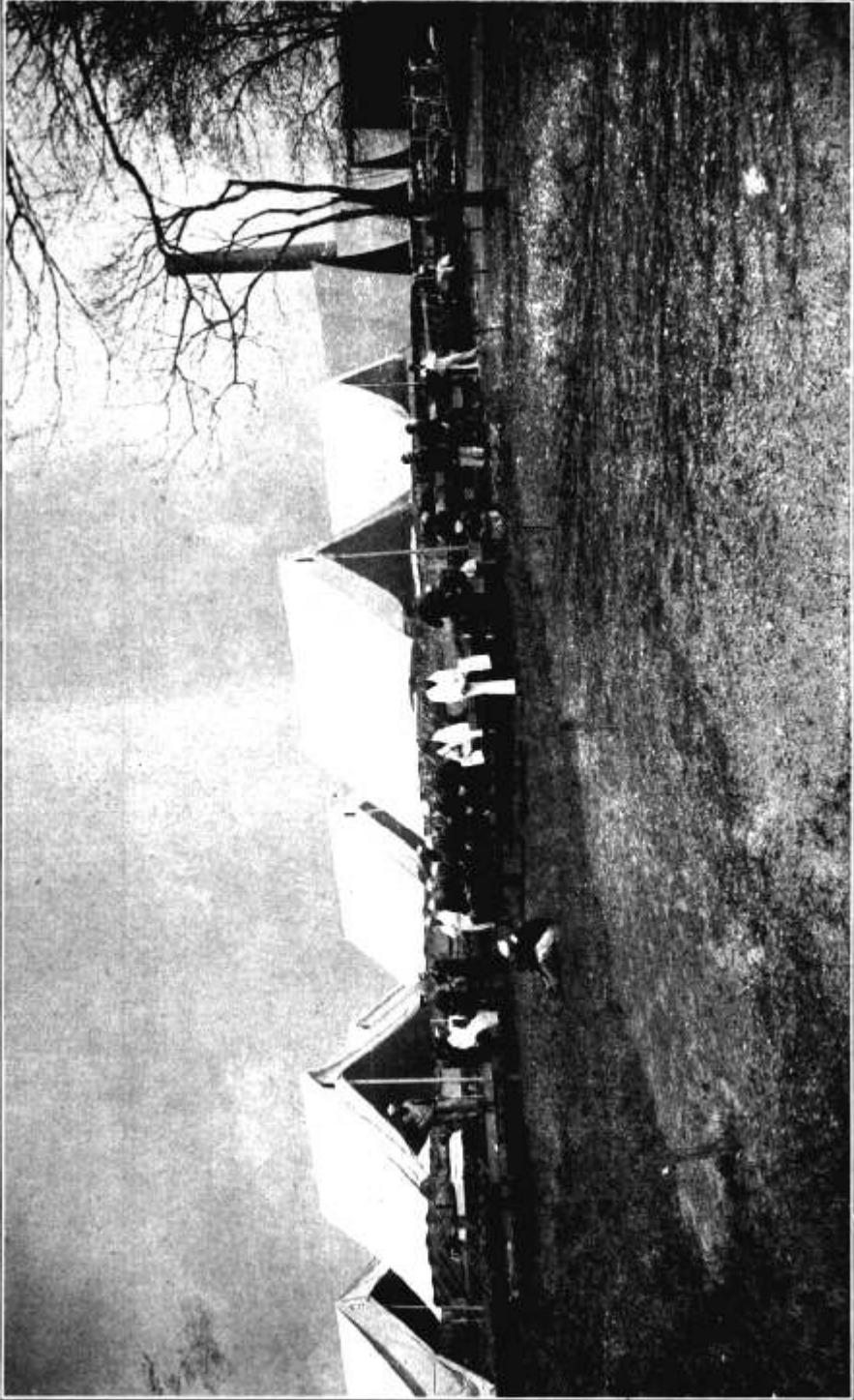
No matter to which duty one may be assigned, there is ample time for leisure and for recreation. At this station there have been classes in music, French and dancing throughout the winter. There are no public places of amusement other than moving pictures, but a number of nurses enjoyed the skating in season, and during the pleasant months of the year, horseback riding is a popular diversion. Furthermore, the inevitable knitting disease that has attacked the women of the land, broke into our midst with unabated fury and those who previously have been considered immune to the fads and fancies of the day, are yielding to the elusive fascination of this working-relaxation as willingly and easily as flowers respond to the showers of spring.

Some are knitting for their own members who are in camp or already "over there," others for their friends, while still others have bent their energy in the direction of the Red Cross, to which every one has contributed in one or more of its several avenues. The ties of kin seem to intermingle with those of friend, for every one is doing something for someone.

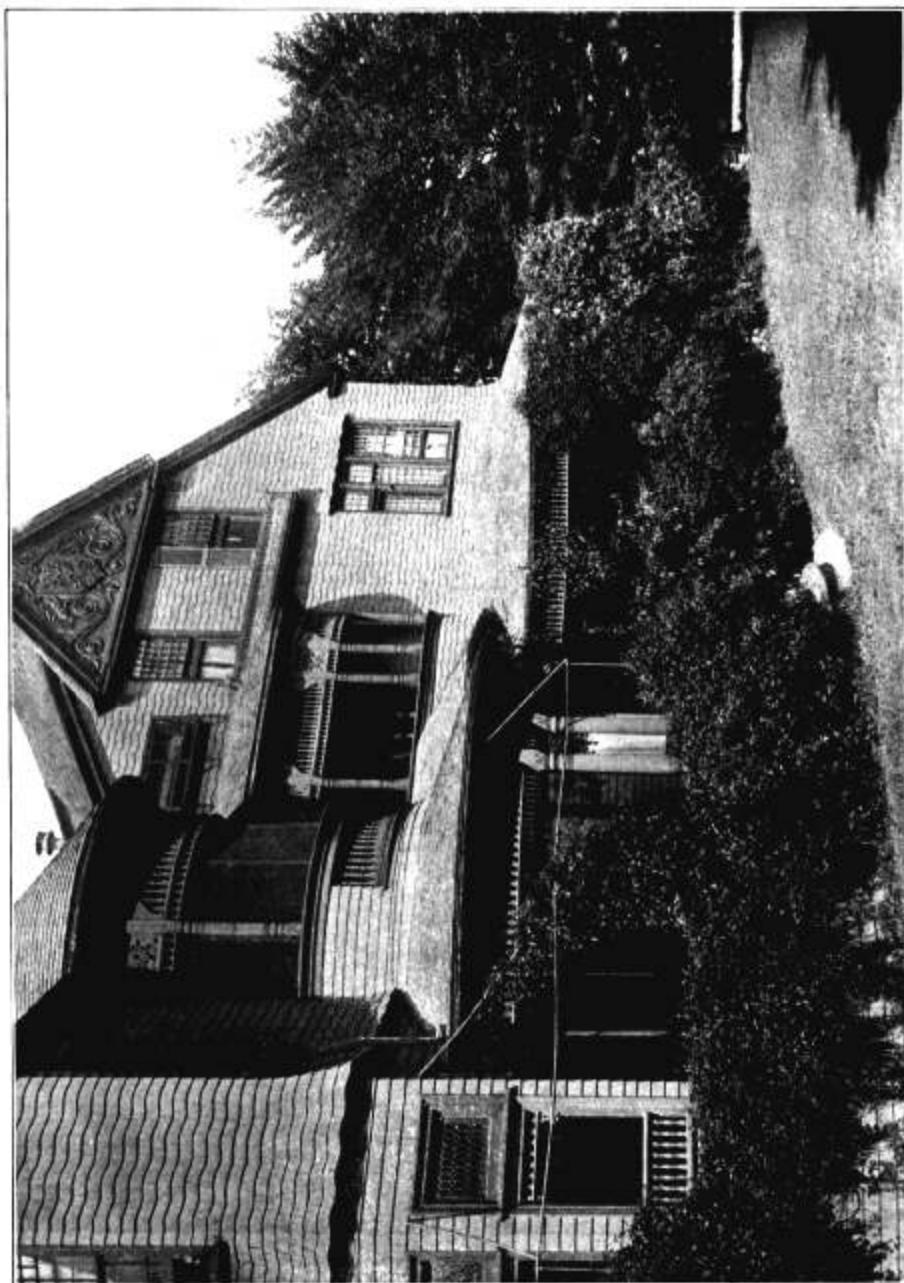
But the quarters and the hospital reservation with its shady greensward rolling down to the water front, dotted with tents, and wheel chairs and benches and Nantucket hammocks for the use of the convalescent sailor boys, are not the only ideal spots in Newport. It is not only a quaint, old, historic town with colonial doors and narrow streets and crooked lanes, but it is one of the veritable garden spots of the world. Nature, with the assistance of man, seems to have run the gamut of extravagance in her display of foliage and blossoms. Such prodigious variety of trees and shrubs, such a riot of color among



Front View of the Naval Hospital, Newport, Rhode Island



Tents in Use in the Summer of 1917, Naval Hospital, Newport



Rear Verandah, Nurses' Quarters, Newport



A Corner of the Porch, Nurses' Quarters, Newport

the flowers! The Cliff Walk with its magnificent demesnes on one side, the constant roll, and iridescent hues of the water on the other, together with the bracing air, constitute a never-ending source of pleasure, while the splendid, celebrated, rock-ribbed Ocean Drive, the most picturesque of its kind on the eastern coast, always presents a variety of beauty in its ever-changing, ever-new, kaleidoscopic scenes and views.

So knitting or bathing, driving or riding, walking, and finding bird sanctuaries and haunts for wild flowers, constitute a wholesome and pleasurable list from which one may choose diversion after the day's work is over. When we consider that it is for duty rather than for pleasure that we are here, we may rightly feel that it is a privilege to serve our country as a member of the Navy Nurse Corps.

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## HOW BLUEJACKETS ARE TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

BY WILLARD CONNELLY, U. S. N. R. F.

It is a new experiment for sailor students to be admitted to a medical college, as it is a new and essentially valuable war work for nurses to assist in training these Navy men. Several of the noted schools for physicians, especially those located near navy yards, might be in a position to undertake this national service in which it has fallen to the lot of the University of Minnesota to be a pioneer. To survey the expansion of the specialized U. S. Naval Training Schools in Minneapolis, established last August, is to see at once that a feature of distinction and excellence rests in the course offered the hospital apprentices, preparatory to their work aboard Uncle Sam's fighting ships.

In May, Commander Warren J. Terhune, U. S. N., commandant of the station, will send the second hundred men, qualified for pharmacist's mates, to duty somewhere on the Atlantic coast or at sea. The first hundred, not a few of them destined for service with the Marines in France, have been, since January, actively engaged in nursing our incapacitated bluejackets.

"There is not one thing that I have been asked to do," appreciatively wrote one of the "graduated" hospital apprentices to a nurse who had instructed him at Minneapolis, "that I can't do better than it is usually done. On my first case I prepared and administered hypodermics, did charting, took temperature, pulse and respiration, gave alcohol sponges, baths, care of the mouth and teeth, used hot water bags and ice caps, and cooked certain forms of diet."

Such a statement is no ordinary testimonial; it is a tribute.