

to joke and cheer each other up, and the boys are marvellous, suffering as they are from multiple wounds, loss of blood, etc. Yet they smile and joke and think of someone worse off than themselves, and are eager to tell the hospital staff just how things are going up at the front. Poor laddies, it is pitiful to see them, covered with mud from head to foot, even their faces and hair caked with the sticky stuff, and often a mass of vermin to add to their troubles. As a rule they are taken out of their khaki and put into pyjamas in the receiving room or pre-operation ward, but in a big rush there is not time often for that, and their things are cut off on the operation table or after they get back to bed.

After the first big rush, relays of staffs were arranged for the theatre, and we then worked from nine to nine, only stopping for meals. This went on for three or four weeks, and then as things quietened

down we were able to get a little time off. By this time it was spring, and we had some glorious walks through the woods, bringing home violets, primroses, bluebells, and other wood-flowers. The noise of the guns is simply terrific at first, but one soon gets used to it, and when busy do not even notice it.



Group at Hazebrouck

Superannuation for Nurses

Some correspondence appearing in the Christchurch papers on the above subject has been forwarded to us. It is a subject which is, of course, of the greatest interest to nurses, and it is one which, although apparently unknown to some of the writers, has been before the Government on many occasions. All Government nurses are entitled to superannuation, in fact they are obliged to contribute towards it by the deduction from their salaries being made, as for other civil servants, before they receive their monthly pay. Towards this fund the Government makes a fair contribution.

With regard to hospital nurses, there is provision in the Act governing hospitals for boards to make provision for their employees, but no advantage has been taken of this provision. Private nurses, being unattached to any public organisation or body, cannot be provided for in this way, but under the National Provident Act they can insure for their old age or sickness.

The writers do not take into consideration the many difficulties there are in the way of superannuation, one of the chief

being that nurses as a body are not stationary. They move from hospital to hospital, and from hospital to private nursing. They propose no scheme workable or unworkable. We consider something might be done :

1. By the hospital boards as soon as a probationer nurse is taken on the staff after the probationary period, taking out an insurance policy for her, deducting so much from her salary and paying a proportion of the annual premium. The deduction and the board's payment to increase year by year as the nurse's pay increases.

2. Should the nurse leave the staff of that hospital and join another, the board should then hand on the policy to the hospital to which the nurse is appointed and the same payments be carried on.

3. Should the nurse take up private nursing she should herself assume the full payments and thus secure the advantage of the whole period during which she has been insured.

The writers do not apparently contemplate any contribution towards superannuation out of their own pockets, but, of course,