BELGIAN WOUNDED AT LITTLEHAMPTON.

SAILORS' INSTITUTE AS A HOSPITAL.

SCENES OF WELCOME.

There were scenes of great excitement in Littlehampton on Thursday night, for it had become known that twelve Belgian wounded soldiers were to be received into the town and everybody seemed anxious to be at the railway station or outside the Sailors' Institute, which had been converted into a hospital for their reception, in order to see the heroes and to accord them a warm British welcome. With this end in view quite a number of people gathered around the two places as early as 6 p.m., although they were not likely to arrive until 8.16, but owing to a connection in London having been lost, the crowd were disappointed.

The people reappeared about 9.30, and when the train steamed in, some 10 minutes later, there was assembled outside the station and along Terminus Road as big a concourse as Littlehampton has seen for many a year. With the visitors were Dr. F. E. Alexander, Mrs. R. M. Going (Hon. Secretary of the Littlehampton Branch of the Red Cross Society), Nurse Esherwood, and Superintendent A. W. Harris, Sergeant L. Polhill, of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and several of the Brigade, who had journeyed to Folkstone by the 8 a.m. train and had conducted the sufferers to Littlehampton.

The wounded soldiers who had only arrived

The wounded soldiers, who had only arrived from their native land on Wednesday, some having taken part in the Antwerp operations, were most enthusiastically cheered, and so keen was the desire to catch a glimpse of each visitor that the police had the hardest task to clear a way for the passage of the motor cars, which were waiting to convey them to the Sailors' Institute.

The Rev. Father Neave, the local doctors and several ladies of the Red Cross Society received the Belgians, Father Neave acting as interpreter, and they were soon in bed, no doubt glad to get there, although they were all cheerful, and some, indeed, quite lively.

A few of the cases were by no means slight, one man having had his arm amputated, and others sustained various injuries to their limbs. Another had a badly bruised face, the result of a horse-kick, whilst the worst sufferer of all had received a wound in his head, which had not only caused the loss of one eye, but was said to be also threatening the other. This man suffered great pain.

They were accommodated in the recreation room of the Institute, which makes a very bright and comfortable hospital ward. In the carrying out of the alterations, Mrs. Rawson-Shaw, Mrs. Going and Miss Hills, the chief officers of the local branch of the Red Cross Society, took an active part, and they derived great assistance from Mr. G. H. Hood, Secretary for the South of England of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, whose institutions and bequests have been placed at the disposal of the Admiralty and the War Office, and from Mrs. Hood.

The doctors of the town have generously volunteered to give free professional treatment, and for their use as a surgery and operating theatre, a room on the first floor has been included in the hospital part of the building. Nurse Trapp is acting as Matron.