

The New Hospital for Women.

THERE has been very general rejoicing at the "New Hospital" in the Euston Road, over the decision of the Royal College of Surgeons to admit women to its degrees.

One student was heard to say: "I suppose I should be criticised as a 'new woman' were I to throw my 'cap' in the air. But I am doing it mentally all the time." Another said: "I wonder what the old fogey College of Physicians will say? It seems so much more logical for the College of Surgeons to boycott women than for the physicians to do so. Surgery may so much more easily be called 'unsexing' than can the harmless administration of pills and potions."

On entering the Board or reception room of the "New Hospital," one is at once struck with the obvious femininity of the garments left there by the staff before going "on their rounds." Where silk toppers and sticks reign supreme in the Board rooms of a Hospital staffed by men, here are to be seen ladylike macintoshes and wraps. Neither hats nor bonnets are left, as it is considered more in conformity with the exigencies of medical woman etiquette that the seniors should retain in the wards their outdoor head-gear.

It seems so long before women can persuade themselves out of the Apostolic behest to remain covered in public.

On the staircases and in the corridors conversation is being carried on in soprano voices, as a contrast to the deeper tones of masculine house-staffs; and the decoration of the offices, from the Venetian red paper on the wall of the reception room to the choice of engravings and pictures, proclaim womanly influences.

A very artistic effect is obtained on the ward walls by groups of marble figures in relief, which are really more decorative than pictures, and present no drawbacks as dust-traps. They can also be very easily washed when the periodic wall cleaning takes place. Music forms a prominent feature in the wards, especially on Sundays, and also on holiday occasions. There is a harmonium and piano on each floor, these adding much to the patient's happiness. The "New Hospital"—by the way, this title will seem odd twenty years hence—is so growing in popularity that already it is showing signs of being much too small for the demands upon its space. Fortunately there is a space of ground behind the hospital which will allow of a large block of new buildings in the future.

It might be suggested that persons interested in the progress of women's movements might show their appreciation of the action of the

College of Surgeons by sending a donation to the "New Hospital," and thereby encouraging the progress of the medical woman. Those who give £1,000 can endow a bed.

There are three circular wards—one named the "Westlake," after Mrs. Westlake, who has done so much towards throwing open to women the profession of medicine. Every ward has its own bookcase, which is easily detachable, so that dust may not linger behind the volumes.

The regulation wire-mattresses are yearly taken entirely to pieces and well paraffined, in addition to being periodically carbolicised. In the lavatories there is an admirable provision of a ventilated cupboard, in which motions, vomit and discharges may be kept for medical inspection without risk of air contamination.

Ventilated cupboards are also provided outside each ward for the hygienic keeping of patient's outer clothing, and in addition a "luxury cupboard" is provided where the little "extras" in the shape of eggs and fruit and other delicacies brought by patients' friends may be kept fresh and cool, instead of being relegated to lockers, over which the Nurses' control is very limited.

A weighing chair is provided on each floor so that the physical progress of patients may be recorded in pounds avoirdupois.

"Does it work on the 'put a penny in the slot' system?" is asked of Miss Cartwright, the clever Matron, and answered by her in the negative.

The apparatus kept in case of fire is very complete, and on Bank Holidays and at other festive times it is by no means uncommon to have a kind of "new woman fire drill." "We always choose the time when there are no men about, so as to have it *all* to ourselves," says one of the Nursing staff.

It will be remembered what admirable assistance was given by the Nurses at the Royal Free Hospital some time since when a fire unfortunately broke out there.

There are two outside balconies on each floor which form very pleasant outdoor seats in nice weather for patients desirous of or needing fresh air. The view can hardly be called picturesque, but few patients will criticise on this point after being, perhaps, some weeks in bed. Beds and easy chairs are put out on these balconies, and the change does much to brighten and restore the sick.

The operating theatre is small, but very complete and orderly. A printed notice enjoins "Surgeons, Assistants and Nurses to keep their nails short, and to wash their hands thoroughly for five minutes in two waters, with soap and nail-brush."

We see the fish kettle which is now used in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)