

## The Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' Home.

THIS charming new Nurses' Home was opened on October 28th, by Mr. Douglas Gordon, J.P., Chairman of the Chelsea Board of Guardians. As the invitation to the opening ceremony, directed by the authorities of the Infirmary to be sent to the Editor of the NURSING RECORD, failed to reach its destination, the Chairman kindly arranged a "private view" of the Home, of which he is very justly proud. The engraving given shows that the building is extremely attractive externally, and a visit to the interior reveals the fact that no Nurses in London are more comfortably and pleasantly housed than are the staff of the Chelsea Infirmary. Much praise is due to the architects for the plans, in the preparation of which Dr. Moore, the energetic Medical Superintendent, gave most valuable assistance and advice.

The Home is fireproof throughout, and contains accommodation for fifty-five Nurses, a separate bedroom—charmingly furnished by Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, of Wigmore Street—being provided for each Nurse. That the staff thoroughly appreciate their surroundings is evidenced by the dainty and artistic way in which each Nurse has decorated her own room. The mess-room is a very pleasant apartment, while the sitting-room opens up delightful possibilities of both restful and cosy half-hours in its tempting chairs. Electric light and steam-heat are used throughout, and the comfortable temperature of the bath-rooms is very noteworthy. The Nurses, too, take advantage of the steam coils in the bath-rooms for warming and airing their linen, a comfort not to be despised after a cold tub on a winter's morning! The nice large wardrobes in each bed-room allow the outfit, professional and otherwise, to be neatly and nicely kept, while ventila-

tion is ensured everywhere by open fireplaces and Tobin's tubes. The night staff have their quarters at the top of the Home, which ensures undisturbed rest, and have a special room in which to breakfast without leaving their floor.

An admirable arrangement, whereby each floor of the Home is connected by an open-air landing to the main building, affords excellent provision in case of fire for the egress of patients to the Nurses' Home, or the egress of the Nurses to the wards. Cheerful little kitchens adjoin the mess-room and Night-Nurses' breakfast-room, these being such pleasant workshops that one wonders when the 'ladycook' will find her way into Hospital.

Practical housewifery on the part of the architects has secured ample provision in the way of box and linen rooms, and economy has suggested a magical plan whereby, when the Nurse closes the bath-room door, the electric light is extinguished. The opening ceremony was exceedingly pleasant, and all who came into close relation with Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Gordon, who acted as cordial hosts, expressed the wish that they might give another "Hospital party." A tour of inspection of the building was made by the visitors, some of whom were overheard to remark that they "wished they were Nurses" themselves, so as to be housed so comfortably and aesthetically. Perhaps



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some of the visitors forgot how well Nurses earn the pleasures and comforts of their Home, by very hard work in the wards.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Gordon gave a charming entertainment in the evening to the staff and visitors, when, in the Hall, which is to be used as a Chapel for the Nurses, a very enjoyable concert was held, varied by some excellent performances given by the Cingalese stick dancers and jugglers. Refreshments were provided, and a most interesting day was brought to a pleasant close. The action of the Chelsea Board of Guardians in providing such a model Home for their Nurses is much to be commended.

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