

The Hospital World.

THE NEW NURSES' HOME, SHOREDITCH INFIRMARY.

THE Nurses' Home which has recently been added to the Shoreditch Infirmary is now complete, so far as the structure itself goes, and it is hoped that the nursing staff may move in some time in November. The Home is approached from the Kingsland Road, by turning down to the left, through the handsome iron gates which are familiar to the readers of Sir Walter Besant's book, "The Children of Gibeon." Passing through the gates at the Hoxton end of the enclosure, one arrives at the "Land of Promise," and it is here that one finds the Shoreditch Infirmary. The matron was out when I called there, but the steward most kindly took me round the building, and showed me all there was to be seen. He prides himself upon the fact that there is no "jerry" work about the building, and that "every brick is a brick." The exterior of the building is handsome, and the chimneys are unusually fine; but it is difficult to get a really good view of it, as there is only a small space between the home and the infirmary proper. The nurses' sitting-room is a bright, pleasant room, which is painted green, with a dado of a warm reddish colour. Over this is a lecture room and reading room, which should be a real boon to nurses who are studiously inclined, and desire to escape from the chatter which is inevitable in a general sitting-room. Each nurse will have a bedroom to herself, all the rooms, and, indeed, the whole building, being heated by hot-water pipes, as well as containing fireplaces, over each of which is a small mirror. The walls are coloured a pretty shade of green, and are, I was told, washable. Each floor of the home is connected by an iron bridge with the infirmary, so that the nurses can easily pass from the wards to their own rooms, without going up and down stairs. At present the kitchen, and the dining room, still remain in the infirmary, but it is possible that, in the future, arrangements may be made for these in the Nurses' Home. On each floor are two bathrooms, and, altogether, the nurses of the Shoreditch Infirmary will be unusually well housed.

New receiving rooms have also been added to the infirmary, close to the porter's gate, which are attended by the portress, and in which doubtful cases are sometimes kept for a night. I was told that at present there are no ward sisters in the infirmary, but, the guardians hope, when the new home is in use, and the accommodation consequently better for the nursing staff, to make "radical changes" in the nursing arrangements.

Amongst the other cases, some wards are set aside for lunatics and mental patients. "What do

you think of the proposal to register mental attendants as trained nurses?" I asked my guide. "That is a question which is agitating the nursing world at present. Do you think it ought to be done?" "No, I don't," came the answer, promptly, and decisively; "but do you really think they will do it?" I answered it was quite impossible for me to say what the Royal British Nurses' Association, under the present management, would or would not do, or at all events attempt to do, and my guide and I agreed that such a step, if it were taken, would be an entirely retrograde one.

After a cordial invitation, of which I hope to avail myself, to pay a second visit to the infirmary when the Nurses' Home is inhabited, I took leave of the courteous steward, and returned to the ordinary world by way of the "Land of Promise."

M. B.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



At the London Hospital a bed has been endowed in perpetuity by a donation of £1000 by the American Victoria Jubilee Fund in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, 1897.

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The Committee of University College Hospital are face to face with the urgent necessity for finding £3000 to meet their current expenses during the remainder of the year, or, of closing fifty beds, a step which would be, in the words of Mr. Asquith, a public calamity. How about the Prince of Wales's Fund? When, we wonder, will this be divided amongst the various recipients?

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The Metropolitan Asylums Board is about to erect new offices upon a site at the corner of Carmelite Street, facing the new premises of the Thames Conservancy. For some time the Asylums Board has been endeavouring to obtain suitable offices, as their present premises are quite inadequate for the accommodation of their staff, which has increased from six clerks to sixty, within the last twenty years. An offer of the site, which has been made by the Corporation to the Board, seems an eminently desirable one, and the Local Government Board has issued an order authorizing its purchase. The cost of the site is £53,000.

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A contemporary inquires how many hospitals of fair reputation are without proper accommodation for the relatives and friends who go to visit serious cases, and may often have to wait for a considerable time in various conditions of trouble and anxiety. We speak what we know when we say that we believe that more often than not patients' friends are "accommodated" in the passages outside the wards, unless the ward sister takes pity upon them and takes them into her own room, which, as this is for the most part her living

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