

The Hospital World.

NATIONAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL, GREAT PORTLAND STREET.

THE National Orthopædic Hospital, Great Portland Street, is an unpretentious looking building; indeed, many persons probably pass it without realizing that it is a hospital at all; but for all that, plenty of work goes on there, and there is accommodation for sixty patients. "And we want beds for 160," Miss Hole assures me as we go round the wards; "sometimes we have as many as 60 patients waiting for admission." The Committee hope in the future to rebuild part of the hospital, and also to enlarge it; and the older part of the hospital certainly needs rebuilding. It is in excellent order, the boards well scrubbed, and the brasses beautifully polished; but after all one cannot make an old hospital look like a new one, and there must be many inconveniences in a building which has been adapted, and not originally built with a view to nursing the sick.

As one goes round the wards, one notes the advantage of specialization. The utmost skill which it is possible to bring to bear upon the nursing of these cases is here attained, and there can be no doubt that orthopædic cases are better treated in a hospital specially devoted to them than in a general hospital. Is not this indeed the case with most diseases? The memory of my school-days returns to me, and I think of the time when I used to have to learn what were the "Advantages of the Division of Labour." One advantage, laid down by no less an authority than Adam Smith, I think, was that "the dexterity of the workman is increased"; this is certainly true in nursing, and as I look about me, and see the valuable opportunities for instruction in this special branch, I long for all special hospitals to be utilized in the best way for the training of nurses. What is the best way? Surely a system of ever-increasing co-operation between the General Hospitals and the Special ones. If nurses once realize that at the end of three years' training there is much of which they are still quite ignorant, there will be a tendency on the part of many nurses to apply for posts at special hospitals, in order to perfect themselves in branches of nursing to which they feel specially drawn. Then we shall get an ideal state of things. Co-operation between general and special hospitals, the general training preceding the special, and again the utilization of the special hospitals, not as training schools, but for opportunities of study for graduated nurses. Meanwhile, to return to the Orthopædic, where I began to moralize, the probationers get instruction which will always be of value to them, and they are readily accepted at general hospitals when their special training is finished.

M. B.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Union Jack once more floats over the City of Khartoum, and "Gordon is avenged," so we say. And yet—of all people, Gordon probably is the one who would least have desired vengeance, and the constant reiteration of this cry strikes the one discordant note in our joy at the deliverance of the Soudan from the yoke of the Khalifa. The solemn memorial service was a fitting and imposing tribute to the memory of the great hero, and later will come a memorial after the heart of the man who loved Africa and her people, in the establishment of a Christian Mission, including, we hope, a hospital, for the benefit of the dark races in whose capacity for great things those who know them implicitly believe.

Professor Virchow has formally accepted the invitation to the banquet to be given in his honour on October 5th.

At a meeting of the sub-committees appointed by the Dundee and Forfar District Committees of Forfar County Council, held recently, it was agreed to recommend that an hospital, providing accommodation for 20 people, should be built near Forfar.

Definite arrangements have now been made to begin the building of the new Dental Hospital of London, and it is to be hoped that the building will be completed in about 20 months.

The Parliamentary Bill providing a site for the New Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the public land known as the "Leazes," duly received the Royal assent after passing through the necessary readings in both Houses of Parliament. When the transfer of the present site to the Corporation has been effected, and the Corporation have added to the Town Moor a piece of land, equal in area to that required for the New Infirmary, Mr. John Hall will be able to carry into effect his munificent offer to build the New Infirmary.

An Infectious Diseases Hospital has just been completed at Huntingdon, at a cost of about £10,000, and presented to the borough by Mr. J. A. Fielden, in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and of the Mayoralty in Huntingdon of the Earl of Sandwich. Every modern convenience has been provided, and Mr. Fielden will hand it over to the town entirely free of any cost.

The Corporation of Manchester propose to spend £27,500 upon the Monsall Hospital. The improvements contemplated include, amongst others, isolation and erysipelas wards, dining halls and kitchens, annex to nurses' block, new servants' bedrooms, and additions to the laundry. It is believed that when the alterations are completed the hospital buildings and grounds will be thoroughly efficient, and will provide proper accommodation both for the patients and nursing staff.

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