

## The Hospital World.

### THE ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

THE first thing which strikes one about the new Ophthalmic Hospital is its roominess. The spacious entrance hall, wide corridors, and large rooms are a pleasing contrast to the necessarily cramped arrangements of many hospitals. The one point in which economy has been considered is, apparently, in the height of the wards, which strike one as rather low. To return to the entrance hall, it is quite charming, being decorated in pink and white, with a dado of wood painted cream colour. The floor is tessalated, electric light laid on, and it is warmed by means of hot water pipes. The passages are coloured pink, with a dado of paint of the colour known as raw sienna, but throughout the building the large amount of white paint strikes one, and raises, in the mind of a practical person, the question, "Who will clean the paint?"

The floors of the wards are of polished teak, and the fireplaces are provided with grates, after the pattern invented by Mr. T. Pridgen Teale. An excellent arrangement is the little china medallion fixed over each bed, and bearing its number. The lockers are of dark stained wood, with a marble slab on the top, they run easily on castors, an arrangement which should bring down benedictions on the head of the designer on the part of many nurses. The Sisters' rooms are no exception to the general rule of spaciousness, being amply large, and some are arranged to open directly on to a verandah, where the Sister can enjoy absolute privacy, and get right away from the ward atmosphere, and, at the same time, is close at hand if required.

The operation room must delight the hearts of both surgeons and nurses. The walls and ceiling are alike lined with an opaque tinted glass tile known as "Opalite," the floor being of terrazzo. The gallery, for the accommodation of students, of concrete, will surely be chilly, but the rule, evidently, is surgical cleanliness before all.

The nurses' quarters are excellently arranged, separate bedrooms being in every case provided for them. The furniture takes the form of fixtures, a hanging wardrobe with mirror, roomy drawers, besides many smaller ones, which will be the joy of orderly nurses, and washstands with cupboard below and marble slab, being ranged round the room. The rooms are heated by hot water pipes. The nurse would be hard to please who was not content with her quarters in

this hospital, and, indeed, the lines seem to have fallen in pleasant places to the nurses of to-day who are, taken as a whole, probably more considered and better housed and fed than any other class of professional workers.

At the top of the building is the kitchen, provided with everything that the heart of a cook can desire in the way of ovens, steamers, boilers, hot plates, etc.

The Out-patient department is accommodated on the ground floor, and is most complete in its arrangements. Special provision is made for a dark room, for ophthalmoscope work, with compartments for eighteen patients, the divisions being formed of dark slabs of slate. There are, also, consulting and refraction rooms, and the refreshment bar, now such a popular feature in an increasing number of hospitals, is not forgotten. Connected with the out-patient department is the dispensary, which is most complete in its arrangements, and there is also an X-ray room, with dark room attached, and a spectacle room.

The basement is delivered over to stores of all kinds, linen room, mattress room, grocery store, and other offices. Here are also the boiler house, and the disinfecting room, and a machine, known as "the cleanser," which, if it performs all it is stated to do, must be a wonderful arrangement. Into this may be placed the dirtiest clothes of incoming patients, steam is forced through them, and, by this means, during the space of time in which a patient is having a bath, all dirt and grease will be removed, and clean and dry they will be ready for the patient to put on again by the time his ablutions are complete. This desirable addition to the equipment of a hospital is made by Messrs. Manlove, Alliott and Co., of Nottingham, and surely there is no hospital which will not desire to possess one.

The mortuary appears to be small in proportion to the number of patients, but it must be remembered that deaths in an ophthalmic hospital are very rare. This hospital, although formally opened, will not be occupied for some little time to come. Workmen are still in possession, and there seems to be a considerable amount still to be done before it will be ready for the reception of patients.

Its erection adds yet one more to the number of hospitals in the City Road, where they are already plentiful. To the on-looker it appears to be a curious locality to choose for hospital purposes, as there are probably few noisier in the City, but there are probably considerations which make it desirable which are unknown to the casual observer.

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