

all of the Lawson Tait pattern, with the characteristic upward curve of the bar to which the wire mattress is fixed. We have been informed by a hospital matron that the drawback to these bedsteads is that the wire is so arranged that it is almost inevitable that the mattresses get torn. This is a serious consideration, and we shall be very glad to know, when they have had a fair trial, if this is found to be the case at University.

The lockers in three out of the four new wards, are made according to a new design. They have a metal framework, and glass shelves, one of which is provided with a wire tray, about four inches deep, for articles of clothing. They are quite open, being, in fact, tables on castors rather than lockers, but round the sides and front is a white linen curtain, on which is embroidered in red the monogram U.C.H. The effect is clean and pretty, but to complete them it appears as if a curtain at the back, which is entirely open, is necessary, otherwise every time the ward is swept the dust must find an easy entrance. Over the top of the locker is an arrangement for charts and prescription papers.

The top floor is occupied by the post-mortem rooms, which are very complete and include a small theatre for lectures and demonstrations. The bodies are brought up from the mortuary, at the base of the block, by an outside lift. No doubt, in a hospital where asepticism is so much considered as it is at University, the sanitary arrangements have been carefully considered. Still, it is surely desirable that post-mortem and pathological research should be conducted in a building entirely distinct from that devoted to the patients. It must be somewhat gruesome to the sick, if they realize it, to know that they form a sandwich between the mortuary below and the post-mortem room above, and the arrangement cannot be considered a happy one from any point of view.

We must not omit to mention the outside iron staircase, available in case of fire. It is also used daily by the porters in connection with their work in the wards, and proves a great convenience.

The block of the hospital which illustrates this article, has been kindly lent to us by the Secretary, Mr. Newton Nixon. Now that the hospital is approaching completion, the question of its maintenance is one which must seriously be considered by the public if its efficiency is to be ensured. So much has been said of Sir John Blundell Maple's gift that the charitable are apt to think that University College Hospital is now well off. This is not the case, and donations are urgently needed to meet the increased expenditure of the new institution.

## An Ideal Hotel and Club for Nurses.

ST. ANDREW'S HOUSE, MORTIMER ST., W.

### THE HOTEL.

We have watched the erection of the fine new buildings in Mortimer Street, inscribed St. Andrew's House, with great interest and pleasure, first because a well appointed hotel for private nurses in the West End of London is an urgent necessity, and secondly because knowing Miss Edith Debenham, the Lady Proprietor, who has spent time, trouble, and money in designing this charming new Hotel, we were fully convinced that it would be organized on the most hospitable and tasteful lines, and would brighten the lives of many hard working professional women, in providing for them a refined and cheerful home, between their cases, or when staying in the Metropolis, and that the Club will provide for Nurses who live elsewhere, a centre in town where they can meet and entertain their friends.

As we make a point, however, of always inspecting an institution before expressing our opinion upon the arrangements, and having been courteously invited by Miss Debenham to see the new hotel when in working order, we did ourselves the pleasure last week of going over it, and were so much pleased with what we saw that we must give the readers of the RECORD a slight description of this really beautiful and beneficent Home—and that it has been made beautiful is indeed a benefit, for which trained nurses will, we feel sure, be duly grateful—for soul satisfying as the care of sick people is to the *true* nurse—yet we all know how much the daily association with sadness affects sympathetic natures, and how, if a nurse is to keep that sweet serenity of mien so indispensable to the patient she must have sweetness and light, and cheerful society and surroundings, when she is off duty.

From the sketch published this week it will be seen that St. Andrew's House has a very artistic exterior, and indeed the warm colouring of the bricks and fine stone mouldings stand out amidst its antique surroundings in the most smiling manner.

Once inside the Hall—beyond which is the bicycle room, an electric lift whisks us up to the first floor, and we step into a fine long corridor parlour which is to be furnished *a l'Américaine* as a lounge, and into which the suites of public rooms open—we are shown into the Drawing Room, and, awaiting our kind hostess, make the acquaintance of the resident secretary—Miss Bowman, whose bright intelligence augurs well for the management and tone of the institution. Miss Debenham is known to so many nurses for the true interest she takes in their happiness and welfare, that we were not surprised to find that for some years she has been planning the scheme of the new St. Andrews House and the thought which has been expended upon its organization is enormous, every detail of the appointments appears almost perfect. Passing out of the lovely yellow drawing-room we visited the dining-room, which is decorated in a rosy shade of flock paper, much of the walls, however, being panelled with unpolished oak, the tone of which is most restful and the smell delightful, here are a dozen little tables for two or four persons, delicately appointed, and at that hour of the day—ready for afternoon tea—a lift descends from the kitchen which is at the top of the building, and this brings all food quickly to the

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