

Montpelier Square, Brompton Road, fire station, was pulled, and two steamers and a long ladder were at once despatched. The firemen found that all danger of the fire spreading was over, but they had to do some cutting-away work to complete the task of extinction. Captain Wells, to whom the news was telephoned at the Southwark headquarters, instantly proceeded to the hospital, and was engaged at a late hour in investigating the circumstances of the outbreak.

The Governing Body of the Metropolitan Hospital Saturday Fund have decided to close the "Fund" for the present year during the first week in January next. The amount received from the industrial establishments, &c., it was stated recently, exceeds the total for the corresponding period of 1901. Application for additional "sheets" or boxes should be made to the secretary at the offices, 54, Gray's Inn Road, London. It is hoped that the ultimate result will not fall short of £25,000.

We are informed that the new building of the Hospital for Paralysis and Epilepsy (which for so many years has been located at Regent's Park) is so far advanced that it will henceforward be open to out-patients, but that before it can be used by in-patients some £1,500 is needed for furnishing and fitting.

A most important step was taken on Tuesday week towards the completion of a greatly needed improvement in the arrangement of the York County Hospital, when the Earl of Feversham laid the foundation stone of the new wing for the accommodation of the nursing staff.

The building will be approached by a glazed covered way to the main hospital block, and will be of three floors with wide corridors extending from end to end, off which all rooms are entered. On the ground floor spacious day and sitting-rooms, with large bay windows, are provided, also Matron's and Sisters' bedrooms, lavatories, cloak and store rooms. A luggage lift serves the upper floors, on which are provided sixteen bedrooms of ample size and height—namely, a separate room for each nurse, bathrooms, linen stores, box-room, &c., on each floor. The elevations are to be in a simple treatment of red brick, with the upper part relieved by a deep cement frieze and cornice. The roofs will be covered with green Westmorland slates. The whole of the construction will be fireproof, and the present section of the building is estimated to cost £3,500. The following inscription is on the stone: "This foundation stone of the additional wing for the accommodation of the nursing staff of the York County Hospital was laid Nov. 11th, 1902, by the Right Honourable William Ernest Duncombe, first Earl of Feversham."

Dr. Naugier, of Paris, in a paper on ballooning read at a recent meeting of the Académie de Médecine, made the astonishing assertion that a two hours' voyage in the air causes a marked increase in the number of the red corpuscles, and the condition persists for ten days after an ascent. Two such ascents in the course of six or seven weeks, he said, are more beneficial to an anæmic than a sojourn of three months in the mountains. Dr. Naugier urged that the municipal council be asked to provide a large balloon capable of taking to the upper air daily 50 patients who are too poor to afford a change of climate.

## Half a Week in Washington.

### THE CAPITOL.

From afar we had seen the palatial Capitol, north, south, east, and west, because from its elevated site on Capitol Hill, high above the river's level, it overlooks the amphitheatre of the Potomac, and is a conspicuous and splendid feature of the landscape for miles on every side of the City of Great Aspirations. One happy day we spent many hours within its glistening walls.

The Capitol consists of a main central building, from which spring the dome and two extensions, north and south. In the central building are the Rotunda, the Supreme Court Room, Committee Rooms, and the National Statuary Hall. The north extension contains the Senate Chamber, the south extension the Hall of Representatives.

The building faces the east, for in that quarter the projectors assumed that the city would grow; but the development of Washington has been toward the west, and it is from this direction that the Capitol is usually approached. From the main western entrance of the grounds, near the Peace Monument, the approach leads up the gently-rising lawns to flights of steps, which give ascent to the upper terrace or open court, which extends the entire length of the west front and around the north and south ends. Here a beautiful view is afforded of the city and encircling hills.

On the east front are three grand porticoes with Corinthian columns, and there is a portico of similar columns on the end and west front of each extension, and a loggia on the west front of the main building. Broad flights of marble steps lead up to the porticoes from the esplanade on the east.

As I have said before, the crowning glory of the Capitol is the imposing dome, springing from a peristyle of fluted Corinthian columns above the central building, and terminating in a lantern, which is surmounted by the Statue of Freedom. A full-sized model of the figure is in the National Museum, where the majestic expression of the countenance is remarkable.

The east portico of the House is plain; on those of the Rotunda and the Senate has been expended the chief exterior adornment of the Capitol. On the tympanum of the Rotunda portico is an allegorical group (by Persico, after design of John Quincy Adams) of the Genius of America. In the centre stands America, with the eagle at her feet. Her shield, with its legend, U. S. A., rests upon an altar inscribed with the significant date July 4, 1776. She is listening to the inspiration of Hope, and indicating her reliance upon Justice, whose scroll of the Constitution bears the date of the adoption of that instrument, September 17, 1787.

Of the two colossal groups in marble on the

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