

throughout with the same opaline tiles as the floor above.

Here are to be found bath-rooms where patients suffering from skin diseases can receive medicated baths. Here also are the electrical and massage departments, one room being set apart for the treatment of massage cases. In the electrical department not only can ordinary electrical treatment be applied, but the necessary provision is made for an electric bath. There is also a radiant heat bath, by means of which all the benefits of a Turkish bath at a high temperature can be obtained at a much lower one, thus greatly lessening the depressing effects on the heart.

The department provides a most valuable training-ground for nurses, which, no doubt, in the able hands of Miss Heather-Bigg, will be utilised to the best advantage. Certainly anyone interested in hospital architecture should not fail to ask permission to see this excellently planned and arranged addition to Charing Cross Hospital.

The Royal Ear Hospital.

Who will deny that sentiment plays an active part in the impulse to charity? Not those who observe the waves of feeling which open purses.

We may take it that patriotism evokes the glamour by which women of all classes are swayed in times of war. The "sick and wounded"—what magic words with which to conjure from slender purses the very last coin! Personal service also is at the disposal of officer and private, skilled and unskilled; and yet women who have lived all their lives within a stone's throw of a Poor Law infirmary, where their motherly service could do much to brighten many blighted lives, have never crossed the threshold. But there is a blare of trumpets, the war horse grapples with the bit and is off full tilt, and away after him prances *Sentiment on its fleetest steed*. Take note in our hospitals. Is it not true that to be "popular" they must appeal to sentiment? Mothers will weep for sick and suffering children, the strong man groans with his fellow man who loses a limb, the "wolf" strikes a horrible chill in the heart of the susceptible. "Give me death rather than disfiguration" is a common cry. But let a human being suffer with a commonplace ailment—albeit most painful—and see how the world will pass such suffering by. A hospital for diseases of the ear—how tiresome! Are not all deaf persons a bore? and promptly a charitably-inclined and sentimental public will click its purse.

If only people would be a little more reasonable in their giving—if they could realise the "outer darkness" of deafness even to the well-to-do, and the despair of it to the poor—the amount of suffering which might be prevented by prompt treatment of these invisible ear and throat diseases, the special hospitals which care for them would be rich instead of terribly poor.

I have always been a warm advocate of special hospitals, and believe that finer work and more consistent treatment is to be done in them than by including special diseases in the general ward. Hence, by the great increase of special hospitals, medical

treatment and nursing is becoming day by day more exact and practical, greatly to the benefit of the sick.

A little hospital which for close on a hundred years has done helpful, unostentatious work in densely-populated Soho is the Royal Ear Hospital.

Founded in 1816, it has been a Royal hospital since 1820, when George IV. became its patron. Since then the reigning sovereigns have always extended their patronage to the institution, a custom which their present Majesties have continued.

Although it has hitherto worked in buildings quite inadequate for its purpose, yet the work it has done has been of the best character. Among other things must be mentioned its teaching. A large number of aural surgeons have passed through it, and have benefited by their work there. Not the least of them is Professor Politzer, of Vienna, the "Father of Otology," who gained his first experience of ear work in this hospital.

Quite lately the Out-patient Department of its recently-completed new building in Dean Street was informally opened; the wards and operating theatre are to be opened later, and by the kindness of the medical staff and the new Matron, Miss Annie Phillips, I was shown over this building, which is wonderfully compact and convenient, Mr. A. O. Collard, the architect, having utilised every inch of space to the best advantage.

The front door leads into a white-tiled hall and passage, from which open a waiting-room and a large well-equipped consulting-room. On the first floor are the board room (artistically decorated, the walls of deep warm rose colour, and furniture, given by a generous chairman, of oak and green), a women's ward and the children's ward, with a nurses' room and the necessary bath-rooms and lavatories. The second floor comprises the male ward and operating room, whilst above are the quarters for the nursing and domestic staff. The wards are floored with teak, the walls being in two shades of terra-cotta distemper. A feature is the artistic friezes, which take the place of pictures. When opened, the three wards will contain twenty beds and cots.

The basement contains a spacious kitchen and offices, engine and pathological rooms.

The whole place is very light and bright; and the medical staff and Matron are enthusiastically determined that "no end of good work" shall be done in the new wards. It is hoped that, hitherto hampered by the lack of funds, the Royal Ear Hospital will now enter upon a new and prosperous phase of its useful existence; I feel sure it is deserving of public confidence and support. E. G. F.

Women on Hospital Boards.

The Dean of Norwich (Dr. Lefroy) successfully carried a resolution at the quarterly meeting of the Governors of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital to the effect that ladies should be treated as eligible for election to the Managing Board. Major Edwardes, in opposing the resolution, said he regarded it as an insult to the present Board. Why? Presumably Major Edwardes sees no indignity in being born of woman, or in the marriage of the sexes and the fatherhood of girls. Why, then, should his manhood be affronted by sitting on the same Board with women to promote the welfare of the sick? The intolerance and narrow-mindedness of some men is almost inconceivable.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)