

although all was done that could be done short of rebuilding.

The Committee were soon asked by Miss Kinninmont to provide children's wards, chiefly on the ground of morality, so that the children should be effectually separated from the adults. A block of houses next the infirmary opportunely coming into the market, the Committee were advised to buy them, and did so. These houses were used for the children until the funds necessary for rebuilding were in hand.

Three years ago the new building was opened, and consists of two blocks, or, rather, of a central block, with one wing.

The central block contains the administrative departments, consisting of the out-patients' department with a very large waiting-room, which admits the patients into the two consulting rooms. These rooms open out into a corridor and through this the patients pass on to the dispensary without re-entering the waiting-room and so causing trouble and confusion.

The entrance hall is very bright and pretty, the feature being the fireplace with its mantelpiece, this belonged to one of the old houses and was originally bought in Rome for £250. It has beautifully carved white marble capitals and centre-piece, whilst the pillars have coloured marble inlaid.

When the housebreakers were pulling down the old buildings, there were various bids for the mantelpiece of £10 and £12; but Miss Kinninmont, who has a nice taste for "antiques," suggested that the offers should not be accepted, so the matter dropped; then the chimney-piece disappeared, "out of sight being out of mind." No more was said until a chimney-piece was needed for the new hall, then the valuable old piece was brought forth from its hiding-place, released from its many wrappings and produced ready for erection by the wise, foresighted Matron.

Above it, adorning the wall, is a fine Louis XVI. clock which Miss Kinninmont discovered on one of her treasure hunts in the old furniture shops which abound in Exeter.

The new wards are very prettily decorated in two shades of green, and have polished teak floors with rounded angles, and contain some nine, some ten beds. The lockers have marble tops. Between the two wards on each floor is situated a large and lofty bedroom for a nurse, and here all her little treasures are put out, comfortable chairs with their cosy cushions, and all the dainty accessories that every woman loves.

Each room is supplied with three windows, one large one to admit light and air, the other two are for overlooking the patients in the wards.

All the wards have windows on both sides, so that there is excellent means of ventilation, all are fitted with closely-fitting green blinds, so that drawn blinds do not necessarily mean closed windows.

The corridors are supplied with an ever-ready fire

hose, which is long enough to reach to their extreme ends, and only the simple turn of a tap is required to set free the full force of water.

The whole of the new building is lighted by electric light, and quite near the Matron's room is a switch-board, which can control it all; should a nurse indulge in late reading Matron need not go to the room but merely turns a handle, and darkness reigns supreme in that department.

The linen cupboard is heated like the rest of the building with hot-water pipes, and contains not only ward linen, but children's dainty pinafores, &c., so that the small folk can be kept clean and tidy. One section is devoted to cast-off garments, for which every matron knows the great need. Shoes and boots of all sizes neatly mended are ready for the critical moment of leaving hospital.

Just now the linen cupboard is being replenished, and Miss Kinninmont is very proud of the fact that she and her staff make all the supplies.

A safety window-cleaner is one of the many ingenious arrangements which this clever Matron has adapted for use in the hospital; the porter fixes it by a pole inside the window, tightens the various screws which keep the cross-bars in place, and then he can sit safely outside without fear of falling whilst doing his work.

One room has been arranged for a mother and child, should either need care and they cannot be separated. Another cosy apartment is a very charming bedroom, furnished as in a modern house, where any old daddy, mammy, or baby may be nursed should he develop bronchitis or any similar trouble; it is quite close to Matron's room, so that the patient is under her direct supervision.

The theatre is, of course, in the new building; its walls are of green tiles and there is a terrazzo floor, so that it can be easily and speedily cleaned. It has an electric fan, which is used to clear and cool the air. The fittings are quite up to date, but modern furniture is needed to make it complete.

Some day, perhaps, someone as wealthy as benevolent will offer to supply this need, as well as the funds required to complete the building. That the Eye Infirmary, Exeter, is worthy of all support is shown in the report for 1904, where it is stated that "the cost of maintenance of each inmate has averaged 5½d. per day, and great credit is due to the Matron for her careful supervision." The Mayor of Exeter said "he regarded the Eye Infirmary as a perfect model in the way of economy," and in this everyone must agree who knows anything of housekeeping.

Miss Kinninmont does not confine herself only to domestic economy, she also works to bring money into the coffers of the establishment; for it was through her efforts that the new building was furnished. When the plans were being considered by the Committee, Miss Kinninmont promised that if the buildings were erected she would undertake to

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)