

The Hospital World.

THE ALEXANDRA ROYAL MILITARY HOSPITAL.

Those who have not visited London recently will miss henceforth the old prison at Millbank which, grim and forbidding, was for so many years a conspicuous landmark on the Embankment. In its place is now a building of healing and hope, the latest of our military hospitals which serves the double purpose of affording skilled medical and nursing care to the sick soldier, and of a teaching centre in tropical and other diseases for the Army Medical Department.

The hospital, which is built at right angles to the Embankment and faces the Tate Gallery, is designed on the pavilion plan, and has accommodation for 280 patients. The wards are restful and pleasant places, most containing twenty-two or twenty-four beds. At the entrance to the ward proper is a small ward for any specially acute case, and a small office for the Sister. At the far end the ward opens into a day room, where the convalescents can have meals and play games during the day, so that the wards can be kept quiet for the really sick. The day room in its turn opens on to a verandah with a most pleasant outlook. At this end of the ward also are the usual offices.

The wards are coloured a pleasant shade of green, the blinds also being green. Conspicuous in each ward is a table, the top of which is formed of white, bordered with green tiles and bound with brass, the effect being excellent. One ward apart from the rest is set aside for cases of septic wounds. Wards are also to be set apart for sick officers. The theatre is well equipped for its purpose with the latest appliances. The floor, which is terra-cotta in colour, is of a new composite material. Opening out of the theatre is, on one side, the anæsthetic room, and on the other a preparatory room for the surgeons. On the ground floor are the kitchens where all the cooking is done by orderlies. Indeed, the only women in the building are those of the nursing staff numbering twenty-eight. At present their quarters, which are to accommodate forty Sisters and nurses, are not built, the foundation stone having only been laid a few days since, and they are temporarily housed at some distance from the hospital.

So far the hospital has been nameless, but when the King and Queen visited it on Saturday last her Majesty consented that it should be named after herself. It gave her much pleasure, she said, that the new hospital should bear the name of Alexandra.

The energetic Matron, Miss Beatrice Jones, and the staff of Sisters are at present busy getting everything into apple-pie order, and have already worked wonders in this respect.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



It was announced, at a meeting held in London last Saturday by the Society for the Suppression of Steel Traps, that the King had given his countenance to the movement for a more humane method of trapping rabbits by prohibiting the use of steel traps in Richmond Park. The King's action was in response to a letter from the local Society for the Protection of Animals. A committee was appointed to work out a plan under which a prize will be offered for the invention of a humane trap, and legislation is to be sought to prohibit the manufacture, sale, and use of the steel trap and the sale of rabbits and hares caught by its means.

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, when, accompanied by the Duke of Argyll, she attended a fête in the grounds of Carnforth Lodge, Hammersmith, last week, was received by the Bishop of Kensington, the Mayors of Hammersmith and Fulham, and others. Miss Crowther, the senior nurse, presented a bouquet of carnations to the Princess.

The Education Committee of the London County Council have produced a long report on the findings of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration. They state that they are considering the advisability of instituting a system of measurement of school children, but they do not intend at present to recommend the Council to take any action with regard to an extended scheme of physical exercises. The instruction in cookery, hygiene, domestic economy, the feeding of infants, &c., now given in the Council's schools is regarded as ample for the present.

Dr. Barnardo will be sixty this month, says the *Westminster Gazette*, and the event is to be signalled in a fitting manner by his friends and supporters. The story of the Dr. Barnardo Homes is one of the most remarkable in the records of philanthropy. While he was living in Stepney many years ago as a medical student, attached to the London Hospital, a little ragged boy came and looked in at Dr. Barnardo's door with the request that he might stay the night. "What would your mother say?" "Ain't got no mother." "But what would your father say?" "Ain't got no father." "Where do you live?" "Don't live nowhere." "Are there many others who don't live nowhere?" "'Eaps and 'eaps of 'em, sir." "Take me to see them."

Dining at a rich man's house a week later, Dr. Barnardo boldly asked his host and fellow-guests to go with him and witness the sights which had so touched his own heart. Cabs were ordered, and the rich men went. One of the party was the "good Lord Shaftesbury," only too eager to help. And after having proved his case, Dr. Barnardo was not long in getting to his life-work. He began in quite a small way in a little house in a mean street, where accommodation was found for some twenty-five boys. To-day the number of his small charges stands at between 8,000 and 9,000, distributed over his various homes in town and country and abroad.

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