

others to listen also. No, converts are not turned out like pills by the gross, and there are more than sixty of these gentlemen sitting in the road sunning themselves and watching the passers-by. . . . But to come back to the dispensary. The building is a large one, and the right side is for women and the left for men.

The women's waiting-room is large and would seat quite a hundred women. The men's waiting-room is not quite so large and the pharmacy is situated behind it. All who can afford to pay are charged a small fee for medicines and for operations. Consultation is free. There are a larger number of women in the dispensary, but more men come into hospital—you see it is cheaper to let a wife or sister attend the dispensary than to pay for admittance to hospital for 'only a woman.' One of the first Egyptian houses I visited contained a sick woman who 'must die in three weeks unless medical aid is procured.' After much persuasion (not by me, as I couldn't speak Arabic then) the master of the house said: 'Yes! you can let the Hakim come and see her; I will ask him to give me something for my eyes.' Let us give these conservative Egyptian men their due. Perhaps the reluctance is not *only* due to selfishness. I think we shall get more Egyptian women in-patients when we have, as we hope we shall this autumn, a separate hospital for women in the compound and the hospital is entirely *hareem*, instead of the present plan, which is to have men on one side and women on the other, in different parts of the same building.

On St. Patrick's day, Sir Algernon Coote laid the foundation stone of the 'Ethel Pain Memorial Hospital for Women,' within a few yards of the spot in the garden where Mrs. Pain used often to sit working and watching her baby daughter at play, and overlooked from the windows of the room in which she died. A sudden exclamation from her in conversation one day of 'It's your poor, trodden-down, uncared-for women that appeal to me most, makes one think it is the memorial she would have chosen for herself. A fully-trained nurse, she showed how much she cared for them by the devotion which urged her to work for them in the present hospital till within a few weeks of her death. The service at the laying of the stone was very nice, and quite a hundred Cairo friends and visitors joined us at it. The C.M.S. and other clergy stood on a platform before the stone with the Bishop in Jerusalem and his chaplain. Each one took part in reading the service. The British friends who came stood in the garden close by. On one side stood native workers, and on the site of the foundations were grouped a large number of men (the natives, employed in the building) viewing the scene with the greatest curiosity.

The Hospital World.

THE LOWESTOFT HOSPITAL.

Standing well back from the road, overlooking wide sweeps of well-kept lawns, stands the Lowestoft Hospital, a long, one-storied building covered with creepers, and having a balcony on which the beds of patients can be wheeled, so that they can enjoy the invigorating breezes which sweep straight off the North Sea, over the pleasant and popular little watering place in which the hospital is situated. One scarcely thinks that there can be much sickness in a place where fresh air is so abundant, and on inquiry from the Matron, Miss Howes, I was not surprised to find that the cases admitted are mainly surgical; the accidents on the boats of the North Sea fishing fleet, which braves all weathers and many dangers in order to provide our tables with fish, supply a fair proportion of these, the inevitable marasmus baby is, however, to be seen in the children's ward. Even Lowestoft air cannot ward off this disease entirely.

The hospital contains forty beds, and there is a well-appointed theatre, a drawback to it, however, being that it appears to be somewhat of a passage room.

So far the hospital has had no resident medical officer, and many of the duties of this official have fallen upon the Matron, who is kept busy with a large out-patient and casualty department. Now, however, a house surgeon has been appointed.

I found Miss Howes keen as to the effect likely to be made upon the smaller hospitals by the passage of a Nurses' Registration Act. She already finds it difficult to obtain a sufficient number of desirable probationers, as these gravitate to the larger hospitals. At the same time, she considers that in many respects the Lowestoft Hospital affords very excellent experience for probationers.

I pointed out that where nursing education is better organised there must inevitably be co-ordination between institutions which are able to afford partial education for nurses, in which case the smaller general and special hospitals must take a better position than they do at present, for now the excellent instruction they can afford in certain directions is not always sufficiently appreciated, whereas under a well-planned scheme of affiliation they would have a recognised position in the training of nurses. Such hospitals are doing good service all over the country, and it is worth some effort to utilise their resources to the utmost. At present much valuable training ground is lost for want of a central authority under which the facilities afforded by the smaller hospital could be co-ordinated.

It is worth while to note that in the country many a probationer can pass successfully through her training who would flag and fail if pent up in a city.

M. E.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)