

students in the school. The anatomical museum seemed particularly good and well arranged. There were two class rooms, dissecting room, &c., and an impressive council chamber.

There is no children's ward in the hospital. All the doctors on the staff are paid for their services.

Don Juan tells me that San Juan de Dios must not be considered as the best hospital in Spain. He gave the palm to the Royal Military Hospital at Madrid.

On another day Don Juan showed us the Hospital Real, a building founded by the Catholic Kings (as Ferdinand and Isabella are usually called). It possesses an impressive plateresque façade. We were received by the Director, who had kindly promised to take us round the hospital, of which, and with reason, he was evidently proud. The wards are built round several large courts. In this one building there is a lunatic asylum, a refuge for old men, and a foundling hospital. It was this latter which we specially wished to visit, and the impression made on us by our inspection was most pleasant. Light, air, and great cleanliness were manifest in the spacious wards. And one seemed to feel the spirit of the able and amiable Director everywhere. In the ward for the babies, all the long rows of cradles down each side can be set rocking at the same time by a mechanism at one end of the room. The beds and bedding for the babies and elder children were scrupulously clean and neat. The foundlings are kept here until they are six years old, and those unclaimed by their parents stay on, and are trained to some useful work.

The boarding-out system prevails, and at the time of our visit the majority of the small children were in the country. There is a "colony" for them, some fifteen miles from Granada. The number of children averages from two to three hundred, and the mortality last year was 36 per cent., a small percentage of which the doctor in charge seemed very proud, and said it compared favourably with the Foundling Hospitals of Paris.

We saw the elder girls at dinner in their large dining-hall, with its splendid wooden ceiling; indeed, most of the ceilings in the larger wards were very fine. The dinner or supper consisted of soup and bread.

In the large well-appointed kitchen chocolate was being put into tins to be baked. Spanish chocolate is almost invariably flavoured with cinnamon, and is very good. When prepared for drinking it is made so thick that a spoon will stand up in it. This is the national beverage for the *desayuno*, or first breakfast. The schoolroom was well furnished, large, and airy, and the chapel was pretty and evidently well cared for.

But the Director's pet scheme is a maternity hospital, which was just finished though not yet occupied. The wards were quite small, several of them only containing one bed; they seemed exceedingly well arranged and up-to-date as regards decoration and fittings and sanitary arrangements. The director pointed with pride to the ceilings and walls, which were of glazed stucco, the ceiling being curved instead of running squarely into the walls, this in order that no dust or germs might lurk there.

We did not go round the part of the hospital occupied by the lunatics, nor the wards devoted to the refuge for old men, though we saw the latter trooping out from dinner. By the way, some of them did not look very old. The lunatic asylum is one of the earliest foundations of the kind.

I forgot to mention that the Hospital Real, though

founded by the Catholic Kings, was finished by Charles V., at the present time it is considered one of the best of its kind in Spain, and, yes, it must be said, compares most favourably as regards internal arrangements and discipline, with those of San Juan de Dios. For our visit to this latter hospital had made us feel very sad.

The Spaniards are a patient, proud people, but from what one hears after a residence of some months in the country, their patience as regards government—more especially local government—is gradually breaking. The theory of government in Spain is said to be almost perfect, but the execution seems to hold a universal network of bribery and corruption.

At Seville, I visited the hospital of La Caridad, which is quite small, and not in the hands of the Government. The wards looked bright, clean, and attractive.

RAY MERTON.

Civil Hospital, St. Helena.

Amongst various improvements carried out by the Public Works Department at St. Helena, the recent addition of a verandah to the Civil Hospital is one of considerable importance, and much appreciated both by patients and the nursing staff. Dr. Arnold, the colonial surgeon, who is the only doctor in the island, is indefatigable in his efforts to improve the sanitary conditions of the colony, and he points out that, besides being a great boon to the convalescents, the erection of the verandah enables many cases, both surgical and medical, to be advantageously treated in the open air.

Formerly, in order to obtain this benefit, patients had to be carried on heavy beds up and down a narrow staircase by the nurses, and, as the Governor of the Island fairly remarks in his annual report, "The ordinary duties falling to the lot of hospital nurses are severe enough without their being called upon to perform such manual labour as was required in moving patients up and down stairs." Another considerable advance in the sanitary reform of the hospital is the completion of the new system of drainage and water supply, which was inaugurated for the main drainage of Jamestown, and is now being carried out in the principal buildings and large houses.

The Governor shows a keen interest in the hospital, and gratefully records his appreciation of the work done by the nursing staff. Last year the Lady Superintendent was obliged, through severe illness, to relinquish her duties for some time, but the two nurses who comprise the rest of the staff successfully carried on the work under somewhat trying circumstances. During the year there were 112 admissions to the hospital—66 males and 46 females—and about 1,000 attendances of out-patients. The cases of beri-beri had decreased to two from nine in the previous year. Of the general diseases, those under the heading "Intestinal" have to account for the largest number—a fact due, probably, to defects in the water supply, the new system not yet being complete throughout the town.

N. E. G.

"La Mère Jarrethout," who has died in Paris at the age of ninety-nine, has a brave record. In 1870 she was cantinière of the Paris *Francs-Tireurs*, and fought beside the husband, now nearly a centenarian, who survives her, at the defence of Chateaudun. For her gallantry she was awarded the Cross of the Legion of Honour.

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