

The Hospital World

THE INFANTS' HOSPITAL, VINCENT SQUARE, S.W.

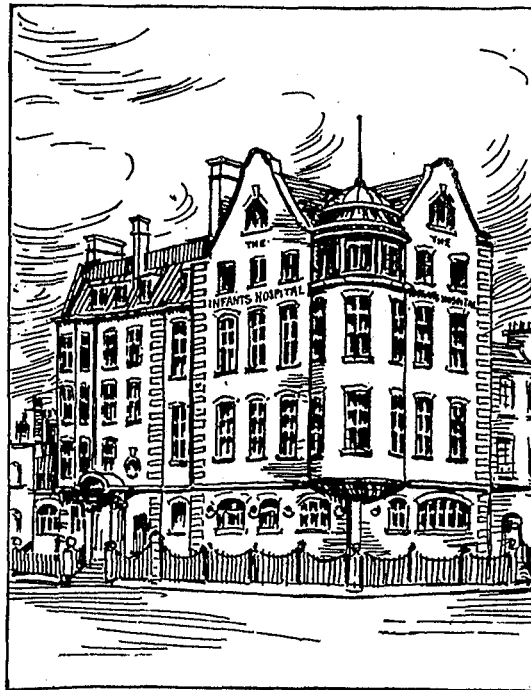
The laying of the memorial stone of the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, on Wednesday of last week, by the Duchess of Albany, was a very pretty ceremony. The children of the Guards' Home in their cosy red cloaks, hats trimmed with a royal blue ribbon, and white ties and gloves, lined the entrance, and later the ward in which the ceremony was held. A more desirable site could scarcely have been found for this hospital, the development of which will be watched with considerable interest, for it is the only institution of the kind in Europe, exclusively devoted to infants and their needs, and promises to be an important weapon in the hands of those who are waging war on the excessive infantile mortality which is at present a national reproach.

The objects of the hospital are: (1) To place the management of infants and the treatment of the disorders and diseases of nutrition occurring in infants upon a scientific basis; and (2) To investigate and demonstrate the means by which the prevalent disease and mortality among infants may be prevented.

Although close to some of the most crowded and poverty stricken districts of Westminster, the Hospital faces the great open space of Vincent Square, and the wind that swept through the unglazed windows on the opening day gave effective proof that that most important element of good health, fresh air, can be admitted in abundance to its wards. The Duchess of Albany on her arrival was received by the Chairman, Lord Cheylesmore, C.V.O., and the members of the Committee of Management. Her Royal Highness was then conducted to the ward in which the ceremony took place, from which there is a charming view across the Square to the Victoria

Tower at Westminster. She wore a gown of grey cloth, with a boa in similar tones, and a bonnet in silver grey and black, with a white aigrette, and carried a beautiful shower bouquet, presented by the Ladies' Committee, composed of pink carnations, white roses, and asparagus fern. The Mayor of Westminster and members of the Corporation were present in their robes of office. The Chairman, Lord Cheylesmore, who has recently accepted this position, referred to the loss the hospital has sustained by the death of the Earl of Mansfield, its first Chairman. He spoke of the work of Dr. Ralph Vincent, the senior physician, in the inauguration of the hospital, and the great interest taken by the late Mrs.

Robert Mond in the present hospital at Hampstead. The new hospital is a memorial to this lady by her husband, who is building it, and handing it over fully equipped to the trustees. Mr. Mond was not present, but wrote to say that he believed the memorial to be just such an one as she would have wished, and expressed the hope that it might perpetuate the influence for good which radiated from her personality. Lord Cheylesmore said that the results so far obtained had been most satisfactory. Five hundred children, varying in age from four to five months to one year,



THE INFANTS' HOSPITAL, VINCENT SQUARE, S.W.

had been admitted, and the majority of these who would in all probability have died otherwise were now thriving.

The hospital would provide accommodation for 50 patients, in three wards, and there was also to be a Lecture Hall, as the object was the study of all subjects connected with the disorders and diseases of nutrition of infants. This was a most important side of the work, and already the institution had been able to demonstrate many things concerning infantile disease, which were formerly unknown.

The ceremony of the laying of the stone was then proceeded with, the Duchess declaring it to be "well and truly laid" in a

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)