

wards walking to their beds? Frankly, I could not have believed it, had I not seen the chair, and, actually, the old dame herself, who, now in a tidy cap and apron, fetches and carries in a manner most acceptable.

The uniform of the school is a narrow blue and white stripe, very pretty, indeed; the course, like all the French schools, two years. In the military division, orderlies are sent from the regiment in proportion to the number of patients, and there are small wards for the officers. Rounds by the General and his Staff are quite frequent, and very important occasions. One can hardly be surprised to hear that the General suffered a shock of dismay on first beholding the youthfulness of the *Directrice* and her Staff. He was afraid his men would not obey their orders, but, needless to say, they do.

What a privilege all these young women have, of being able to do pioneering in these old hospitals, and with what satisfaction they will, some day, look back upon their difficulties and their labours!

L. L. DOCK.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Mr. Francis Recketts, of Queen's Gate, W., has given a sum of £10,000 to the Great Northern Hospital, Holloway Rd., N., for the purpose of building a convalescent home in connection with the hospital. The Islington Carnival has also brought £1,200 into the hospital's coffers, so that the Great Northern is just now in luck's way.

In pursuance of the request of the Prince of Wales, President of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, Sir Eyre Shaw and Captain Wells have presented to His Royal Highness a report as to the best method of securing protection against fire in the various London hospitals.

The following points should be remembered by the hospital staff in the case of an alarm:—

1. On the discovery of a fire, or on smelling smoke, the staff and employes should not run about aimlessly or shout or shriek, etc., but quietly think and act on the instructions for raising the alarm.
2. The first object is to prevent "panic" among the patients and visitors, if any.

3. If the Fire Brigade has been called, the actual fire damage should not be much in the thoughts of the staff. It is imperative to see to the removal of patients who are in danger to safety, which is, as a rule, out of the smoke area, and preferably outside the building involved if a comparatively small one, or into a separate block if a large one.

In a densely smoky atmosphere a wet flannel over the face is beneficial.

4. Those detailed for appliances should go to their duty at once, and endeavour to check the progress of the fire.

It would be as well also for someone in authority on the spot to detail those who are to remove patients, and also those who are to receive them, and see to their proper clothing and comfort.

Improvements at the Royal Free Hospital.

Princess Christian on Tuesday last visited the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., of which she is President, when the new Mortuary Chapel was dedicated, and the new Operating Theatres inaugurated. Her Royal Highness, who was accompanied by H.H. Princess Louise Augusta, President of the Ladies' Association, was received in the Board Room by the Earl of Sandwich, Chairman, and other officials. She was then conducted by the Chairman, members of the Staff, and the Matron, Miss Cox-Davies, to the beautiful little mortuary chapel, where a short dedication service, conducted by the Archdeacon of London, was held. The chapel is small, with an arched ceiling. The floor is of red tiles, and there is a dado of dark green tiles, with a black line top and bottom, which is very effective. Above this the walls are at present distempered a pale green colour. The glass of the windows is set in lead. The altar, covered with a fair linen cloth, was adorned with lovely "Mary" lilies and lilies of the valley, and on the floor on each side of it stood tall candlesticks bearing great candles, the flames of which were electric lights.

The Royal party then proceeded to the Operating Theatres, which, with their annexes, are at the top of the North Block.

In one of the theatres the Senior Surgeon, Mr. James Berry, F.R.C.S., made a short speech, inviting Princess Christian to perform the opening ceremony, and thanking her for her interest in the institution. The Princess then declared the theatres open. She afterwards stayed for some time in the hospital, visiting the wards. Many of the visitors inspected further the operating theatres, which are in duplicate, divided by a sterilising room, each theatre having its own anaesthetic room. There are also surgeons' and students' rooms.

The fittings are as perfect as can be, the glass instrument cupboards, shelves, and bowls being of the most approved type. The antiseptics in use, to judge by the glass jars, are creolin, biniodide, and boracic lotion. There are also taps for the supply of sterilised water, and hot and cool saline solutions. The reservoirs for the supply are in the sterilising room, where stands the great steam disinfectant, the heat in which is raised by a ten pound pressure of steam to 240 degs. Fahr.

The great centre of attraction to the women students was evidently the complicated copper operating table. They gathered round it and examined it minutely.

On leaving the hospital, Princess Christian proceeded to Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, where she presided at the Annual Meeting of the Mothers' Aid Society, which helps the necessitous district patients attended by the hospital, and assured those present of her great interest in the Society and her sincere wishes for its prosperity. A vote of thanks was passed to her Royal Highness.

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