

as part of the decorations in one ward this Christmas.

There is much else interesting in the history of the hospital, but the present hospital also claims our attention. From the moment one passes through the fine iron gates, round the beautiful lawn, and enters the hospital by the great portico under the dome, one's visit is of absorbing interest. The dome, by the way, is said to be second only in beauty in this country to that of St. Paul's, the one ranking third being that of the Radcliffe Library, Oxford.

The sight of so many men and women suffering from the most terrible of all diseases, that of the brain and nervous system in various forms, cannot fail to be a sad one, but there is this consolation, that the days when the implements of torture, once used at Bethlem to control unfortunate patients, and still preserved there as relics of a barbarous age, when "Bedlam" was synonymous with pandemonium, are past for ever, and everything that medical science and kind nursing can devise are employed for the relief of the patients.

The corridors, out of which the wards open, where the patients meet and pass the day, are pictures of comfort, with soft, warm, bright carpets, and comfortable chairs, pianos, and games for the use of the patients; billiard-rooms are also provided.

Dining-rooms open out of each corridor, where meals are served. Incidentally, it may be mentioned as an instance of the incessant watchfulness which has to be exercised, that after every meal the knives are counted before the patients rise from the table, and, if one is missing, no one is allowed to leave the dining-room until it is found.

The more acute and dangerous cases sleep in an observation ward, where a night nurse is always on duty, and has to go round every half hour. A clock above her chair records the number of rounds she makes, and this clock she takes with her on reporting to the Matron each morning.

Some of the violent cases are placed in single wards, and lie on mattresses on the floor, where there is no possibility of their hurting themselves, and some are in padded rooms, where floor and walls are of india-rubber, so that it is impossible for the most violent to injure themselves; consequently, no restraint is necessary, and humanity and kindness permeate every corner of this great institution.

A most interesting room is the fine Board Room, round which are hung the arms of the various Presidents and portraits of benefactors,

as well as a fine engraving of the last scene in Hogarth's "Rake's Progress," in which a fashionable lady is, after the manner of the times, depicted as amusing herself by inspecting the insane at Bethlem, her maid by her side pointing out to her the notable sights.

The Royal Arms over the mantelpiece are interesting, and are believed to date back to the second hospital, as they depict the lion and the dragon instead of the unicorn, and the coat contains only the arms of England and the fleur de lys of France.

There is a beautiful ballroom, in which, every fortnight, dances are held, and a stage, from which theatrical performances are given.

The Resident-Superintendent, Dr. Hyslop, possesses, amongst many other gifts, artistic talents, and has exhibited pictures in the Royal Academy. Two fine pictures painted by him are hung in one of the rooms.

In regard to the nursing arrangements, the male side is nursed entirely by attendants, and very smart, business-like, and reliable they appear to be; on the female side, the wards are in charge of Sisters. Many of the heads of wards on both sides have been in the hospital for a great number of years. Probationers are trained for three years, and, indeed, the training often extends into four years, in order to enable the pupils who enter while a course of lectures is in progress to get in all their lectures. They have the advantage of being able to go up for the examination of the Medico-Psychological Association, and gaining its much prized certificate, which is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, and is the recognised certificate of efficiency for a mental nurse. Facilities are also afforded to nurses to get an insight into the work of the hospital for periods of three months or more, but no certificates are given for these short terms. The nurses neither pay nor are paid while they are gaining this valuable experience.

M. B.

#### THE PASSING BELL.

We greatly regret to record the death, at the General Hospital, Madras, on Dec. 31st, of Miss Rachel Angela Betty, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent of Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service for India. Miss Betty was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, where she held the position of Sister of Sitwell Ward. When the late Miss Catherine G. Loch was appointed the first Lady Superintendent of the India Nursing Service, Miss Betty accompanied her, and held high rank in it. On Miss Loch's death, she succeeded her as Lady Superintendent of the Service.

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