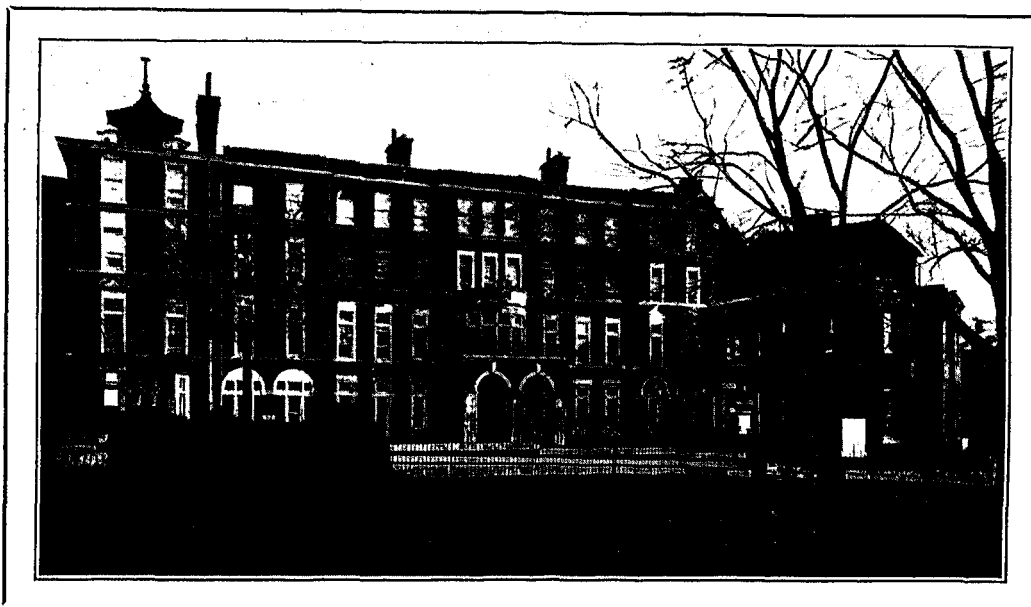


THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL.

The Prince of Wales Hospital at Tottenham has a fine reputation in North London, not only because of the skill which is brought to the treatment of all manner of sickness and disease, but also because of the kindness that prevails there and which has caused the hospital to be regarded as a home whose doors are willingly opened, at all times, when sickness and suffering come. It is a very precious asset in the district it serves, and only those who attend its Christmas festivities and other functions can realise how very intimately it is associated with the life of the people in and around Tottenham. Like many another similar institution, in these days, it is spreading itself over an ever widening area and each time we visit the Prince of Wales Hospital it seems to have grown. At present a very large building is in process of erection, which is to be devoted mostly to out-patient work, but which is also to provide accommodation for cases of tonsils and adenoids, and a certain number of rooms for private patients. It is ex-



THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, TOTTENHAM.

pected that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will open this early in July.

We were interested to see a photograph of the little Georgian house in which the hospital started. This was originally given by a certain Mr. John Morley, a City merchant, and he could have had little idea then of how the hospital would spread its tentacles, taking in more land and houses until it occupies now a large amount of space, with grounds calculated to provide for much more building in the future. The Matron, Miss Bickerton, remarked that although the original house, given by the City merchant, is still part of the hospital, it would be exceedingly difficult to find it, so much has it become absorbed into the general construction of other parts of the hospital round where it stands. The institution actually owes its foundation to a Dr. Laseron, in 1865. His idea was to start a hospital where ladies could be trained to nurse the sick poor. It is interesting to know that the first Superintendent was a Deaconess from Kaiserswerth. The institution has other historical associations, because Lister went to school in a building opposite the hospital, and the latter was the first London hospital to use Lister's carbolic spray.

The view from the hospital is very beautiful on all sides, and even on the lower floors you, for the most part, look out on trees and gardens; the balconies are some nine feet wide and extend to half the length of the wards. The patients were taking full advantage of these on the sunny afternoon when we visited the hospital.

The theatres are well equipped, there is abundant window space, fine shadowless lights, very up-to-date operating tables, and there are plenty of rooms grouped round to serve the ordinary requirements of surgical administration. We noticed a very convenient type of irrigator—an ordinary glass one, slipped into an electro-heated jacket in which the heat of the fluid can be regulated to three different temperatures. A hole in the lid of the jacket serves to hold the thermometer and also to maintain the flow of the fluid by avoiding the creation of a vacuum.

The wards of the hospital are spacious and light; the window arrangement is such, in most of them, that there is a plentiful supply of sunshine at all hours of the day. Perhaps this is responsible to some extent for the atmos-

phere of cheerfulness. There is friendliness everywhere, and as you walk round with the Matron she seems to know every patient in the hospital, and each, except those who are very ill, is waiting to give her a friendly greeting as she passes. The children's ward is delightful; some little folk were solemn enough and appeared to take themselves very seriously; others obviously found the world full of interest and looked upon themselves as no inconsiderable units in its make-up. The hospital has, of course, its own supply of radium from the King's Fund, but it is interesting to know that its first stock was the gift of Mr. Drewett,

for years the Secretary-Director of the Hospital and now a member of its Council.

We visited the kitchens, cool, clean and orderly, and then went into the present out-patient department, which certainly appears cramped in relation to the numbers who take advantage of it. The X-Ray department has, of course, many new and up-to-date features to show. The Chapel is rather beautiful, in that practically its sole decoration is a window largely made up of beautiful blue glass. At the time when we entered the effect of this was striking—rays of blue light shining over the blue altar cloth and finding its way about the pews and walls. It gave a very striking impression, especially as we remembered that blue is the colour of devotion; here it was a colour alive.

The nurses' quarters are very pleasant and bright, and we liked the nice bedrooms, each with a beautiful outlook on the gardens or stretching across to Highgate or Greenwich. An unusual accessory was a tiny sweet-making room where Sister Mabel Berkeley makes many good things which, when sold, help to swell the coffers of many a special Fund. In the bedrooms you find an occasional canary, and, in one room, were two love birds of grey and blue. "People give them to us, and what can we do but take

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)