

SIR THOMAS LIPTON MEMORIAL HOSTEL.

"OSIDGE," CHASE SIDE, SOUTHGATE.

The "lot has fallen in a fair ground" for the Queen's Nurses of the Southgate District Nursing Association in the bequest of the late Sir Thomas Lipton, Bart., of his private residence "Osidge," Cockfosters, which was his home for forty years.

The formal opening by Lord Inverforth of Southgate on September 21st drew a large number of invited guests who were chiefly from the neighbourhood of the property.

Shamrock, shamrock everywhere greeted the guests: in the cap of the commissioner; at the entrance on the bunting floating in the breeze; on the little badges worn by the nursing staff; and real sprays of Irish shamrock were placed by the plates of the guests in the refreshment tent.

The badges, we learned, were the remainder of those given by Sir Thomas to his guests on his yacht, and charming little tokens they were. We secretly wished there had been sufficient to distribute among the guests.

The house is a low two storey one with a half basement and a verandah running along the back of it. The grounds surrounding it are not extensive, but they contain some fine trees, and one or two beautiful cedars. The preliminary ceremony was an outdoor one, the Committee and principal guests being seated in the verandah. Lord Inverforth, in the Chair, was supported by the Mayor of Southgate, looking imposing in his robes of office, and attended by his mace-bearer. The President said that by condition of Sir Thomas's will, the property was conveyed and made over to the Society to be known as the "Thomas Lipton Memorial." The property was valued at £45,000, and in addition there was bequeathed £20,000 to provide a sufficient yearly income.

The accommodation was for fourteen nurses, each to have a separate bedroom.

It was Sir Thomas's wish that it should be dedicated to the memory of his mother, "the guiding star of his life." The President recalled how during the war the "Shamrock" was placed at the disposal of the Government for the conveyance of the wounded, and how his mother's house at Cambuslang was given up to serve as a hospital.

Mrs. Fairweather, the Chairman of the Nursing Association, said that last year 11,000 visits were paid by the Queen's Nurses, and 6,000 massage cases received treatment. A midwifery and maternity service was to be launched this autumn. The hostel, she said, was a worthy and lasting memorial to the mother of a great man.

The ceremony of unveiling the bronze metal tablet in the hall was the next item. It was inscribed as follows:—

"OSIDGE"

BEQUEATHED AND ENDOWED AS A HOSTEL FOR NURSES BY
SIR THOMAS LIPTON, BART., K.C.V.O.

IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER, 7TH MAY, 1934.

The tea was in a large marquee on the front lawn, and all kinds of good things were provided for the large assembly.

The guests were then permitted to go over the house and examine the beautiful treasures with which it is so richly endowed.

The sitting-room, which was our first call, took one's breath away with lovely Hepplewhite chairs, tables and settees, beautiful carpets and rugs. We felt that it would require some living up to.

The dining-room boasted a magnificent polished table flanked by carved chairs, upholstered in sumptuous light brown leather.

The entrance hall contained magnificent specimens of carved chests, tables, and a curious clock. Two small carved busts of our present King and Queen bore inscriptions

testifying that they were presented to Sir Thomas by their Majesties.

In contrast to these, on the wall hung oil paintings of his father and mother, the latter a dear homely old lady wearing an old-fashioned cap with a bunch of flowers in the lace.

We feel, like the Queen of Sheba, that the half has not been told of the treasures it would need a connoisseur to describe. We were informed that 28 pantechinons were required to remove the surplus furniture.

The bedrooms were refurnished at the expense of the Ladies' Association, as it can be well understood that the existing furniture was not suitable for the purpose. But even so, there remained several wardrobes which were indeed things of beauty and convenience. In the Assistant Matron's room especially was one of Spanish workmanship which added to the cream of the collection. Her bed-spread was of Japanese embroidery and came from the "Shamrock." The Matron's room contained some very choice and satisfying specimens.

The nurses' bedrooms were of a good size, and, as we have remarked, were furnished with modern equipment of dark oak and pretty chintz; basins with hot and cold water and other desirable arrangements, such as fixture cupboards of considerable proportions. In the corridor was a room with every facility for making tea, which will be a great acquisition when the midwifery department is in action.

To return to the ground floor, there is a fully equipped department for radiant heat, etc., a patients' room, white tiled, where dressings are done, adequately fitted with basins, sinks and steriliser. The cupboards were well stocked with necessaries for district work, mackintoshes, waterbeds, air rings and so forth.

We got a peep through the hatch of a very bright and cheerful kitchen. This department was originally in the basement, but that floor is now closed and will only be used in emergency.

During the afternoon, the string band of the Northern Juvenile Orchestra provided the music, and very charmingly they played. The boys were in white blouses and black trousers, and the girls in white blouses and black skirts. They were pleasing to both eye and ear. We are glad to think that this good fortune has fallen to the lot of the district nurses, as, without offence to other members of the profession, we have always considered them the "pick of the basket."

H. H.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF DIETETICS,

Nurses wishing to obtain a Diploma in Dietetics or Chiropody will be glad to know that Miss M. Martin Leake, now Principal of the London School of Dietetics, 1, Ridgmount St., London, W.C.1, has made a reduction in the fees for these Courses for Nurses who can produce their Certificate of State Registration, with yearly receipts up to date.

The following scales of fees show the splendid opportunity Miss Leake offers to nurses in her endeavour to make this very costly training more accessible to them:—

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Six Months' Course—half fees—20 guineas.
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The London School of Chiropody.

For the One Year's Course—half fees—20 guineas.
Those contemplating taking courses in either Dietetics or Chiropody would be well advised to communicate with Miss Martin Leake at the above address.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)