

torture and worse at the hands of the treacherous Indians to whose sick she devoted her life.

It will be remembered that in the Pageant of Nursing presented in London in 1911, designed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in the Procession of Saintly Women and the Nursing Orders, Jeanne Mance was personified by Miss Gertrude Cowlin.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

### THE MARIE CURIE HOSPITAL.

Although the work of the Cancer Research Committee on the treatment of cancer of the uterus by means of radium has been in existence since 1925 it was not until September, 1929, that it was co-ordinated at the Marie Curie Hospital, 2, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, which was formally opened in July of this year, by Mr. Stanley Baldwin, M.P., supported by the French and Belgian Ambassadors. It is named after that great genius, Marie Curie, the French scientist, who discovered Polonium and Radium in 1898, with her consent and good wishes.

The hospital exists for the purpose of treatment by radium, of cancer and its allied diseases in women, chiefly uterine. It is entirely staffed by medical women and numbers as many as eighteen surgeons, drawn from the Royal Free, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and two Sussex hospitals.

The work of these eminent women is co-ordinated and supervised by the Director, Miss Hurdon, M.D., C.M. (Tor) who is one of the greatest authorities on radium treatment. She is personally present at nearly all the operations, thus ensuring a necessary uniformity of treatment from the surgeons.

Preference is given in the waiting list to the younger patients, for whom it will be readily understood that the earliest treatment possible is all important.

Out-patients are seen daily and no letters are required. On the occasion of our visit we were most courteously received by the Matron, Miss E. L. Ashby, A.R.R.C., who with great patience explained the very interesting treatment, and showed us the domestic side of the Hospital.

The Hospital is adapted from a private house belonging to an artist and seemed to be a veritable sun trap. This impression is heightened by its decoration throughout which is of a warm cream enamel. Wonders have been achieved in the basement by this cheerful colour scheme and by additional windows. The spacious coal cellar has been converted into a cheerful out-patients' department, and if it had not been for the Matron's assurance it would have been difficult to believe that such a transformation was possible. On the ground floor is the principal ward containing fifteen beds. This we were told was originally the studio, which one readily accepted as the whole aspect was sunny and cheerful and in addition gay with flowers. We particularly admired the quilts, which were of cream-coloured crash, with the monogram of the Hospital in the centre, applied in a pretty blue. The five bedded ward on the same floor is reserved for the non-malignant cases.

On the first floor are the private wards, single and two bedded, for which the charge is from £5 5s. to £15 15s. weekly.

We were fortunate to see the theatre just after the conclusion of two operations before the precious radium had been returned to the safe where it is placed after being checked by two responsible persons. Each little stick, about half an inch long in appearance looking like a lead for refilling pencils was worth about £60. Miss Chadburn, M.D., B.S., the Chairman, was recently presented with £2,000 worth of needles.

The process of the application of radium is too scientific to attempt to explain here, but roughly as we understood

it, the precious radium is encased in platinum with an outer cover of rubber, the latter preventing the Alpha and Beta rays to be given off, and allowing only the diffusion of the required Gamma rays. In uterine cases this is introduced into the cervix, after curretage has been performed, and allowed to remain about two hours, the patient being removed for that period to an adjoining ward kept for that purpose.

For secondary glands, radon is employed, which is an emanation or sort of gas from the radium. This, suitably enclosed, is inserted into the gland by what was described as a kind of air pistol, where it remains. Its emanations cease after 48 hours.

A feature of radium is that it is selective in its effect and does not affect healthy tissue.

The work of the Hospital is fascinating and most deeply interesting. It is well worth a visit and should command a wide and generous support.

It claims no sensational result, as these cannot be reported upon until five years have elapsed after treatment. The staff consists of the Matron and ten Sisters and nurses, for whom additional accommodation is urgently required.

H. H.

The ninety-first annual report of King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E., is particularly interesting. The Committee refers to the great progress made and the world-wide reputation obtained by the Urological Department, founded in 1922. There had been further developments in the X-ray Department, which was getting well ahead of those in many other institutions. Another department which had enormously developed since the War was the Physical Treatment Department. Heavy and unsightly appliances are abolished wherever possible, and the Physio-Therapeutic Department has become a place of light and hope and healing, where the crooked may be made straight.

During the year a clinic was founded for the investigation and treatment of asthma and allied diseases. The aim is to study from a scientific point of view a limited number of cases in detail. A team has been working in the hospital for six months, and the clinic has now more than 100 cases for study.

The 147th annual report of the Board of Management of the Miller General Hospital for South-East London at Greenwich states that its financial position had caused great anxiety, and towards the end of the year it became so critical that it looked as if nothing could save the situation other than the closing of a large portion of the hospital. By the exceptionally generous donation of £12,000 which King Edward's Hospital Fund contributed from the Thankoffering for the King's recovery the calamity of closing any part was averted. But strenuous appeal efforts must continue to be made to produce the desired result.

The outstanding feature of the year of the Seamen's Hospital Society was the completion of the Nurses' Home and the Pathological Laboratories. The buildings were formally opened by the Duke and Duchess of York last July. Both buildings were built to the designs of Sir Edwin Cooper, who had also prepared plans for a new Out-patient Department and a complete theatre unit at the Dreadnought Hospital. The cost will amount to about £35,000. The cost of extensions and alterations at the Endsleigh Gardens Hospital is estimated at £20,000, and a "Tropical Hospital Fund" to raise the money has been started. The East India Dock Dispensary had been discontinued and a new dispensary at Southampton acquired.

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