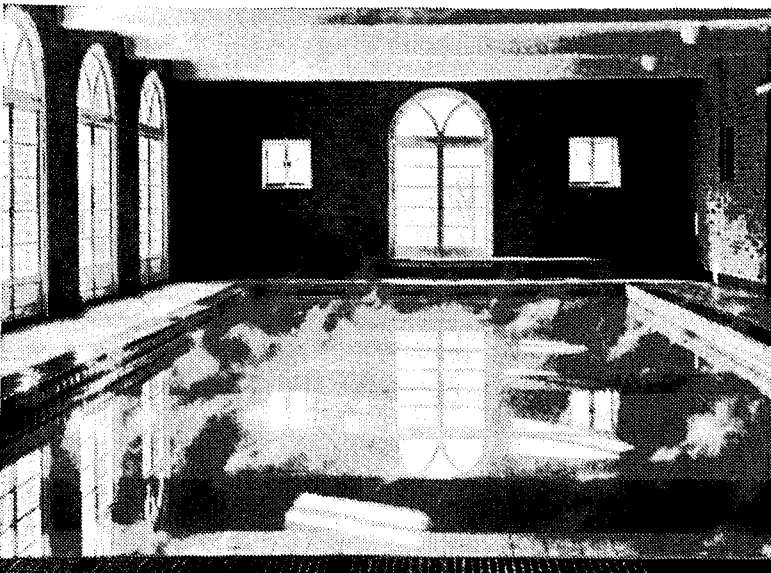


Swimming Bath Water Purification Plant Installed at the R.A.F. Rehabilitation Centre, Leatherhead.

THE PULSOMETER ENGINEERING CO., LTD., of Reading, have supplied water purification plant for many municipal purposes throughout the British Isles and Overseas, but from a humanitarian point of view, one of the most interesting is that used for the purification of the swimming bath at the new R.A.F. Rehabilitation Centre at Leatherhead, designed by Arthur W. Kenyon, C.B.E., F.R.I.B.A.

Here, broken and paralysed members of the Royal Air Force are being helped back to normal life as far as possible. One of the interesting treatments given is immersion and exercise in hot water.

The illustration shows the swimming bath which is entered down wide shallow steps, the width of the bath. On these steps many patients sit to do exercises which are designed to assist the movement of joints and limbs. Those who cannot walk are carried down and held up by the male nurses and the buoyancy of the hot water, the temperature of the water being approximately 95 deg. F., and patients may stay in



Swimming Bath for Paralysed Members of the Royal Air Force.

the bath for periods of half to one hour at a time, and more than once a day where desirable.

The bath surround is used by patients for practising walking. These surrounds are picked out in coloured and serrated tiles.

Most of the bath is shallow, being under four feet in depth, but the deep end has over six feet of water to enable diving and swimming to be indulged in. The water is kept constantly purified by a Pulsometer plant, which, in a three-hour turnover, deals with 17,000 gallons of water.

The process of water purification is a constant cycle. From the deep end of the bath, the water is continually strained before being pumped through a tube for the automatic injection of coagulating chemicals. Impurities and organic colloids are filtered out by a Venturi Pressure Filter before the water is passed on to the Calorifier where it is heated to the desired temperature. It then goes through the Aerator to be oxygenised and deodorised and on to the last process which is sterilisation with chlorine, after which it is returned to the shallow end of the bath, hot crystal clear and sterile.

Cutting Out Waste in Hospitals.

MISS HORNSBY-SMITH, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, opening a new operating theatre at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, recently said:—

"If every Hospital Management Committee tackled its expenditure in the same way as you have done, we would have far fewer complaints about extravagance in the Health Service. Your approved estimate for this operating theatre was £4,204, by most scrupulously cutting out non-essentials you reduced the cost to £3,380—a result which is quite outstanding in these difficult times.

"This is a refreshing example of the prudent and responsible expenditure of public funds which characterises this Hospital Management Committee. You have given a lead in seeing good value is obtained for every pound spent. We hope your lead will be followed by every other hospital authority throughout the country. In asking hospitals to save where they can, we do not want as a result an inferior service for patients. They must get the best possible care and attention. But if every member of a hospital staff—from the surgeon to the stoker—were to cross-examine themselves, how many of them could honestly say that there are not all sorts of ways—many of them quite small—in savings could be made?

"I want to appeal to the public, too. There is a widely held misconception that the weekly insurance contribution pays for the Health Service and you hear such comments in Out Patients Departments (as I did this week), 'I pay five bob a week for this, so I might as well get my moneysworth.' That patient was quite wrong. Only 10d. of the 9s. 1d. paid by himself and his employer in fact goes to the Health Service. And even when all these weekly tencences are added up they represent only one-eleventh of the total cost of the Health Service. The other ten-elevenths comes out of taxation."

Miss Hornsby-Smith was fulfilling her first official engagement in her own constituency since attaining Government office.

Rooms formerly used for storage have been converted at Queen Mary's Hospital by Sidcup and Swanley Hospital Management Committee, into a theatre capable of dealing with all types of surgical operations.

Improvements are now to be carried out to the existing theatre, so that eventually the hospital will have two well-equipped theatres.

In 1948 just over 2,000 operations were performed at the hospital; at the end of October the total for this year was already 2,600.

A Youngsters' Ward with a Racing Stable.

THE FIRST BABY born in St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford, after Christmas Day, has a three-guinea cheque from the staff; and another goes to the first baby born in the New Year, the gift of the Mayor.

The former present, this Yuletide, went to a daughter of a former nurse, Mrs. Vela-Santos, on Boxing Day. Mrs. Vela-Santos had trained in the same hospital. Her husband had come to the town as a child refugee from Spain's Civil War.

The New Year was only an hour old when Mrs. Joan Bishop's son arrived, to win the Mayor's gift.

On handing over the cheques the Mayor was shown the rebuilt Harper children's ward, of which the 40-bed room has been divided into one of 18 beds, a separate section for surgical cases and four double-cot cubicles.

The ward's equipment includes a racing stable of four rocking horses.

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