

New Kowloon General Hospital, Hong Kong.

£3,125,000 Building to be Completed in 1960.

PLANS FOR a new hospital, with 1,275 beds and quarters for staff, to be built in Kowloon, Hong Kong, and estimated to cost approximately £3,125,000, have been approved by the Hong Kong Government. Provision is made for a special children's section containing 200 beds.

The new hospital, when completed in 1960, will be the biggest of its kind in the Commonwealth. It will be known as the New Kowloon General Hospital.

The 13-storey building, occupying the site of the Navy Recreation Ground and Salvation Army Camp at King's Park, will have a complete range of the most modern facilities available to doctors. There will be deep X-ray plants, isotope laboratories and treatment rooms, occupational and physiotherapy rooms.

The hospital has been designed by the British firm of chartered architects, Messrs. Easton & Robertson, of London.

Working drawings are now being prepared by the Architectural Office of the Public Works Department, Hong Kong, and construction work will begin on the sisters' and nurses' quarters in 18 months' time, i.e., the middle of 1957.

The whole project, including quarters for medical and nursing staff, will take three years to complete from the time construction commences. Actual construction work will cost £2,500,000.

All the construction work will be let out on contract to local firms. Tenders for the construction of the sisters' and nurses' quarters will probably be called for in 15 months' time.

Nurses' Training School.

The quarters for sisters and nurses will incorporate a nurses' training school. The building programme is being so arranged that the quarters and the training school will be built and functioning before the main hospital is completed.

The two senior partners of the firm of architects responsible for the design, Sir Howard Robertson and Mr. J. Murray Easton, are both Gold Medallists of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Mr. Murray Easton visited the Colony in November, 1954, and was followed in April, 1955, by Sir Howard. Another partner, Mr. S. E. T. Cusdin, who accompanied his partners on the two previous visits, was in Hong Kong in September last year taking with him a set of the final sketch designs.

The investigations of the designers into the economical use of space have resulted in the reduction in the areas of individual rooms and departments to an efficient working minimum.

The aesthetic aspect has not been overlooked, for the hospital will fit naturally into the landscape. Its bold and simple mass will be interesting when seen from any point of the compass.

Placed on an elevated plateau, the building will enjoy a splendid view of Victoria Harbour and the Kowloon hills. The main block will be orientated on an east-to-west axis, thus providing day-long shade against the tropical sun.

The designs incorporate the most up-to-date ideas on communication facilities. Provision has been made for the rapid distribution of food and supplies while there will be convenient access to all departments for patients, staff and visitors.

The new hospital will have 51 ward units, all designed in such a way as to provide the easiest and most direct communication between them and other parts of the hospital.

Disposition of Main Units.

The main units of the hospital have been arranged as follows:—

The principal ward units are in two groups—medical and

associated units on the west side and surgical and associated units on the east side, occupying the first to ninth floors.

The children's ward units, containing 200 beds, are grouped with, but are separated from, the medical wards on the west side and situated on the first to eighth floors. Accommodation for private patients is available on the ninth, tenth and eleventh floors.

There are 12 operating theatres adjacent to the surgical ward units in the north-east wing. Two additional operating theatres are provided in the north-west wing for use in conjunction with the children's hospital.

The Radiological Department is on the ground and first floors in the south-east wing. A two-storey structure, it will be one of the most up-to-date radiological centres in Asia and its facilities will be available for the whole Colony.

The Physiotherapy Department, Occupational Therapy Department and the administrative offices for the children's hospital are located in the south-west wing. The laboratories are situated on the first floor of the north-west wing.

The Obstetrics Department has a complete and separate delivery section as well as separate accommodation for septic cases.

Administrative offices, the kitchens, canteens, laundries and store-rooms are located on the first, ground and lower ground floor levels.

A large recreational area for the use of convalescent children is provided by a covered roof-top in the children's wing. Enclosed in a separate building on the roof of the main block is a large tank, providing ample storage space for water.

The hospital will be approached by a dual carriage roadway from the junction of Gascoigne Road and Jordan Road. The road leads directly to the main forecourt of the hospital, from which there are entrances to the major departments for patients, staff and visitors.

The forecourt is inter-connected by two-way ramps with the main car parks, providing accommodation for 400 vehicles, located at the lower ground floor level.

The National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

"NURSE CAN YOU TELL ME . . .?" is the title of an informal Course for Nurses and Health Visitors, to be held in Shrewsbury on June 19th and 20th, 1956, and repeated for a different group of nurses, on June 21st and 22nd. This is the first time the NAPT has arranged a double Course on these lines.

Other Courses for Nurses to be held in 1956 are:—

Edinburgh: September 20th to 22nd, at Adam House, Chambers Street (University of Edinburgh).

Sheffield: (organised by the TUBERCULOSIS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE) September 11th to 14th.

Programmes for these Courses will be available later in the year.

NAPT Church Services will be held on April 29th, 1956, in London and Edinburgh, as follows:—

The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields; The Church of Corpus Christi, St. Giles' Cathedral, The Church of the Sacred Heart, Edinburgh.

Royal Society of Health Health Exhibition.

CONSIDERABLE INTEREST HAS been shown by exhibitors in the forthcoming Health Exhibition to be held at Blackpool from April 24th-27th, and which is being organised by the Royal Society of Health in conjunction with its annual Health Congress. The Congress is attended by over 3,000 public health experts from all parts of the world.

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