

floor, and is flanked by single-storey buildings for the various consulting rooms, while its two upper storeys are appropriated as male medical wards. The left-hand wing has board and committee rooms on the ground floor, and upon the two upper floors female medical wards. In addition, however, to what is visible from Steelhouse Lane, there will be two main blocks projecting from the transverse corridor to the limits of the site on the St. Mary's Square side, and these give long wards in three storeys to each block, those at the eastern extremity for male surgical cases, and those at the opposite end for women. At the western end also are two smaller wings, where there are some special wards, including one for children. A one-storeyed covered way will afford communication with a Nurse's home, of three storeys and basement, fronting the side street. Upon the Loveday Street or eastern façade, there will be a bold semi-circular projection, forming the termination at that point of the long transverse corridor. This will give an operating theatre on the basement first floor, and a lecture theatre corresponding to the two floors above.

* * *

The floors of the wards are of wax-polished teak, laid in a bituminous bed, upon solid concrete and steel joistings, leaving no air spaces or chinks in which offensive matter can accumulate. Quitting the ward at its lower end, we find on the right a small group of rooms, of which the chief is the ward kitchen, with cupboards, sink, hot and cold water, and other conveniences. Upon the opposite side of the corridor is a large day-room, with windows overlooking the entrance quadrangle, where the Nurses allotted to the ward occupy their spare time. The operating theatre, is rather more than half a circle in plan, being about 40-ft. to 30-ft. It has large windows all round, and a portion of the roof is glazed. Circular seating is raised tier above tier for medical men and students. The floors are laid and walls coated with washable material, and means are at hand for frequently cleaning every part. Opening out of the operating theatre on one side is a single ward, which may be used as an anæsthetic or recovery room, and on the opposite side a room for the surgeons and nurses. Between the operating theatre and the corridor is a dark room for eye examinations, and a store for water beds, etc.

* * *

There is a conspicuous absence in the wards of visible heating and ventilating appliances, for there are no fireplaces or hot water pipes. The explanation is to be found in the basement of the building, where a large open atmospheric reservoir is provided into which the air is constantly being drawn for redistribution through openings in the outer wall, each provided with regulating doors.

Just within are steam pipes to temper the air at once and prevent the freezing of the screen in cold weather. The screen, upon the efficiency of which the system of heating and ventilation largely depends, is constructed of a series of cords of coconut fibre, suspended from the ceiling and reaching to the floor, with a surface in this air-chamber alone of about 800 superficial feet. Water constantly trickles down it, and occasionally it is thoroughly cleaned by a good flush. As the air is drawn onwards it passes through the interstices of the screen, which intercepts heavy particles of soot and dirt, flies, moths, and other insects, so that a foggy atmosphere outside becomes clear and bright within. The cleansed air continues to be drawn inward, and, if required, is further warmed by passing over many coils of steam-pipes to two large revolving fans turned by electricity, which force it still onwards through perfectly clean ducts to the various parts of the building. Secondary heating coils are provided at intervals, and there is a simple contrivance for regulating both the temperature and the volume of air admitted to each separate ward, room, or corridor. There are four installations of this character. The buildings have a capacity of about two million cubic feet, and provision is made for renewing the air ten times per day, both day and night. The artificial lighting is by electricity, and water is supplied from an artesian well, whence it is pumped to cisterns in the towers.

* * *

AN unusually large number of Governors attended the Quarterly General Court of the Middlesex Hospital, held 30th August, under the presidency of Mr. J. W. HULKE, F.R.S., President of the Royal College of Surgeons. A very satisfactory report was read by the collecting clerk, showing a continued increase of subscriptions towards the funds of this well-known institution, whilst the donation list was chiefly noteworthy for the princely gift of £1,000 by Mr. JOHN MAPLE, of Bedford Lodge, Hampstead. The list of legacies contained several items of importance, amongst which may be mentioned the bequest of £434 by Mr. T. H. GLEESON, in respect of which Mr. HENRY T. GLEESON was appointed an Honorary Governor. The expenditure of £18,475 was sanctioned for the construction of the Convalescent Home at Clacton-on-Sea, the building of which has already commenced. The Home is to contain 40 beds, and is intended to afford rest and change of air to the patients of the Hospital. Subsequently the Court proceeded to make a slight alteration in the Laws of the Hospital, in order to allow of the appointment of a third treasurer, and the Honourable LIONEL WALTER DE ROTHSCHILD was elected to the newly-created office.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)