

official at the lodge. The Infirmary is well situated, and handsome enough on the exterior, but, as is so common with our English Hospitals, there is not sufficient breathing space around it. Contrasted with some German and American Hospitals standing amid far-stretching park-like grounds, our limitation of space is very noticeable. But there is no defect in the internal arrangements of the Liverpool Infirmary, which has been recently rebuilt, and was re-opened in 1891. The architect, Mr Waterhouse, has added one more to his professional triumphs.

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The military-looking porter ushered me into the visitors' room, a pretty little white-tiled sanctum, and I had barely time to examine the photographic decoration of the walls when Miss Rigney, the Assistant-Matron, gave me a pleasant welcome, and kindly volunteered to act as *cicerone*. She prefaced our tour by a thoughtful inquiry as to my powers of pedestrianism; to which powers I gave a ready assurance. But I soon began to realise that to properly see the Infirmary means to tax to a considerable extent one's muscular energies. We passed through the fine corridors, decoratively tiled, peeping in on our way at the handsome Board-room with its ancestral-looking portrait gallery of past and present Managers, and stopping to admire the Lady Superintendent's "office," which looks quite like one of the Governmental Departments. Unfortunately, the head of these official quarters was absent on a holiday, so that we had not the pleasure of making her acquaintance. Miss Rigney, who has recently been appointed to the position of Assistant-Matron, was previously Night Superintendent—a post she held for some five years. She speaks of the Hospital with real enthusiasm, and takes a pride in pointing out the superb conditions for efficient work, and the comfort and the considerate arrangements for the workers. We stop first at Clarence Ward, and spend some time with Sister Clarence, who wears a very dainty uniform of dark blue and a charming cap.

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The wards are exceptionally large and fine, while flowers and screens and general spotlessness give an atmosphere of "sweetness and light," which is a moral and poetic tonic to the minds and bodies of the patients, drawn as these very largely are from the Liverpool slums. The bed-linen, which is very fine and soft, has picturesquely woven into it the City Arms—a civic decoration which is artistic and loyal. Sanitation stands, crowned and supreme, in the bath-rooms and lavatories, where successful effort is made to minimise the unpleasant necessities belonging to these offices. An ingenious contrivance (which should be fitted in all Hospital lavatories) is that whereby the Nurse may turn on the water-taps by pressure with her foot, thus leaving the hands free to empty and wash out the ward utensils. It is pleasant to note that connected with each ward there is an isolation room containing two beds, where a "suspicious" or infectious case may be isolated from the general ward. A "clinical" room adjoins every ward where testing and minor pathology is carried on—a good plan for relieving the wards of the untidiness and inconvenience of a test-table.

My visit being made about mid-day, I have the benefit of admiring the dinner-lorries in motion. The kitchen is hygienically situated at the top of the building, thus avoiding a general odour of greens and roast mutton pervading the wards and blending with the perfumes of carbolic and antiseptic dressings, which can never be quite eliminated from a Hospital. The "lorries" duly provisioned are quickly lowered from the kitchen, by means of lifts, to the different landings, where their arrival is awaited, and speedily wheeled along the corridors to the ward kitchens where the food is dispensed, and reaches the patients hot and appetising. We do not omit, in our wanderings, to look into the wardrobe room belonging to each ward. Here the patients' clothes, after being rigorously "stoved," are loosely placed in bundles on ventilated shelves. We have time, too, to admire from the windows the recreation ground, where comfortable seats are placed to tempt the women, girls and children to hasten their convalescence in the open air. The men are thoughtfully provided with wide open corridors where smoke and chat help to lighten aches and pains, and pass away the days of enforced idleness. Our investigation takes us to the Nurses' quarters, which are models of comfort. It is no easy task to provide separate bedrooms for a Nursing staff which numbers nearly 300; but here it is accomplished, and the Nurses spend the three years of their training most comfortably. There is a sick-room for sick Nurses, restful and delightful, and the Home Sister, Miss Ferguson, takes every care of the invalids under her charge. The series of lectures given to the Nurses by the medical staff is elaborate and complete; and these lectures are generously thrown open to the Nurses of neighbouring Hospitals.

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The operating theatre claims a few lines of special attention. The light is excellent, the table good, with an irrigator which is most accommodatingly adjustable above. And a word of praise must be accorded to Mr. Bank's ingenious arrangement of instrument shelves, with glass sash doors opening upwards like ordinary windows. The theatre is not without its decorations in the shape of ferns, but these must be intended solely for the medical eye, as the patients are anaesthetised in adjoining chloroform rooms. We must now descend a good many steps to the out-patients' department, which is above criticism, and spotlessly tiled, so that speedy and frequent cleansing is an easy matter. It is interesting to hear that every Nurse has some out-patient experience—an essential part of training which so often is entirely neglected. The Infirmary is very proud of its Chapel, which is also tiled in æsthetic green. The beautiful Altar-cloth, the stained windows, and the large organ give an impression that one has strayed into a fine Parish church. The Sisters are much interested in the Services, and are devoted choristers. An eloquent Memorial tablet to Miss Staines, the late Matron of the Infirmary, will speak to generations of Nurses of faithful service well done.

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The Recreation room which the Committee built at Miss Staines' suggestion, is another memorial of her kind thought for the patients. This room, lighted by electricity, with a splendid stage and seating accom-

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