

The Royal Hospital, Richmond.

WEDNESDAY, the 8th July, was a gala-day at The Royal Hospital, Richmond, when the beautiful new Princess May's Ward for Children was opened by the Duke and Duchess of York, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Teck, all of whom were received by the President of the Hospital, the Duke of Cambridge.

The Duchess of York was conducted with a mixture of official and paternal solicitude, on the arm of the Duke of Cambridge, to a tent in the garden, where she received purses containing £540, after which the Royal party, accompanied by the Committee, Medical Staff, Secretary, and Matron, Miss Rachel Foley, inspected the New Ward, and declared it open. They went through the Hospital and Nurses' Home, in the sitting-room of which they took tea before leaving the Hospital, amidst hearty cheers.

The Duchess of York may be considered to have originated the movement for a Children's Ward. Prior to her marriage she was well aware of the needs of the Royal Hospital through the Duke of York, who usually presides over the administrative meetings. The Princess May, as she then was, took up the matter warmly, and collected among her friends the sum of £500. The subscriptions from various sources, and the financial results of two dinners, presided over by the Duke of Cambridge, have brought the funds up to within two or three hundred pounds of the full discharge of the debt.

The interior of the New Ward, which contains fourteen cots, is finished upon the most modern principle of sanitation—the flooring being of polished oak, the walls decorated in an exquisite shade of soft green in glazed Oude and Parian cement, the ventilation on Boyle's system, and the heating by the Manchester stoves, supplies continuous, warmed, fresh air. The cots and ward furniture are of the best quality and modern design. The cost of the Ward, and the spacious bath-room, lavatory—and convenient ward-kitchen, and adjoining Nurses' Home—has amounted to £6,235, all of which sum, with the exception of £100, has been given. It only remains for some generous friend of the Hospital to sit down and write a cheque for the last hundred, and thus open the much-needed Children's Ward free of debt.

We had the pleasure of seeing the great improvements which have been carried out at the Richmond Hospital, since a memorable visit in 1880. Very little of the picturesque, though necessarily inconvenient old house now remains, although we were glad to see that the charm-

ing old panelled halls and wide oak staircase are still extant; and also that the dainty panelled chamber, supposed to have been the study of the poet Thomson is now used as the sitting-room of the Matron. It must, indeed, be with a sense of great satisfaction that Miss Foley, the Matron, who has worked with such devotion for the welfare of the Hospital for fourteen years (and as Matron since 1891), can look round and see the marvellous progress which has been made in the Institution, and the state of perfection to which it has been brought.

The Nurses' Home is quite an ideal building, a square block, built on to the end of the Hospital, with a marble staircase, away from the wards. Here each Nurse has a spacious room, most comfortably furnished, from the windows of which she looks over the lovely Richmond Park. The sitting-room is all that can be desired for comfort and beauty, and indeed, we think life in such a delightful spot, must be an enviable one; and that the Committee, and the energetic Secretary and Matron are greatly to be congratulated upon the good work which has been accomplished, and which will doubtless continue in the Institution over which they preside.

The Hospital now contains fifty-six beds, and the Pupils trained in its wards will, therefore, at the end of the three years' term, be eligible for Registration. A system of theoretical education is now to be inaugurated.

Miss Foley was an early member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and has conscientiously carried into her work the great principles of progress and reform making for the efficient nursing of the sick, for which the Association was founded in 1887—principles upon which, in the future, it must stand or fall.

A Benefit Scheme.

At the Bath Trained Nurses' Home and Institute it has been decided to distribute Bonuses out of the Benefit Fund to all Nurses having Savings Bank accounts, those who are able to pay the premiums required by the National Pension Fund being few in number. Nearly all will be able to participate in the Benefit Fund according to the new arrangement. During the year the Committee have granted a sum from the Benefit Fund (to which special subscriptions are sent) of £4 towards helping five Nurses with their National Pension Fund payments, and have also given a bonus of £6 on the savings in other Funds of twelve Nurses. Three Nurses, on leaving, received £1 each.

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