

The Hospital World.

THE BLACKBURN AND EAST LANCASHIRE INFIRMARY.

THE Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary is a handsome building built on the pavilion plan, and is effectively placed on a rising slope, commanding an extensive view, of which the tall chimneys of this busy manufacturing town form the foreground.

I was conducted over the building by Miss Poole, its energetic and capable matron, who is justly proud of the infirmary. The charming Nurses' Home has been entirely equipped by the generosity of the chairman, Mr. Henry Harrison, J.P., and Mrs. Harrison, with the result apparently that the nurses have nothing left to wish for. Their sitting-room is delightfully furnished, the walls are painted in harmonious shades, while the cornice, which runs between the ceiling and the walls, has been painted with sprays of apple blossom by Miss Poole and her assistant matron with most happy effect. Each nurse has a separate bedroom, and I was told that the only inquiry made by Mrs. Harrison concerning the various articles when furnishing the Home was "Is there anything better to be had?" The consequence is, each nurse is the occupant of a bedroom, furnished in a way to which many girls cannot aspire in their own homes. The bedsteads are entirely of brass, an ample wardrobe with a long glass with bevelled edges gives plentiful hanging accommodation, while no nurse can comfortably go out with a dress unbrushed, or uneven round the bottom, when this condition is faithfully reflected by her mirror. A chest of drawers, a marble-topped washstand, with a cupboard roomy enough to contain quite a regiment of boots and shoes, a bookcase, and clothes-basket, chairs, and lastly a carpet—yes, the rooms are really carpeted—complete the appointments of these charming quarters.

In the wards I noticed that each patient was provided with a bed-table, and tray cloth, and was told that these, as well as the beautiful mortuary linen, were the gifts of the same generous donors.

The mortuary itself is admirably suited for the purpose for which it is designed. The walls are of glazed bricks of two colours, the floor tessalated, and the three slabs provided are of slate covered with white enamel, standing upon china supports. The impression which is being borne in upon me is that our country hospitals are certainly ahead of London ones in their mortuary accommodation.

I must not conclude my notice of this hospital without mentioning its black-leaded staircase, which is, I imagine, unique, and of which the matron is not a little proud.

M. B.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT performed the ceremony of opening the Aldershot Hospital, of which the Duchess laid the foundation-stone a year ago, on August 13th. His Royal Highness congratulated the Committee and the inhabitants of Aldershot upon possessing so useful an institution. The religious portion of the ceremony was conducted by the Bishop of Winchester. The necessary linen has been given by

the women of Aldershot as a memorial of the Queen's reign, while an endowment fund has been raised as the town memorial.

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Nine army surgeons left London yesterday for Bombay. They are travelling overland to Brindisi, where they will join the P. & O. mail steamer *Oceana*.

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Many of those who are familiar with the *Ospedale Italiano* in Queen Square, Bloomsbury, will regret to see that the work of demolishing this interesting old house has been commenced, but it is nevertheless a matter of congratulation that this building, of historic interest, will be replaced by a new hospital, built after the most approved methods suggested by modern science. The Hospital is nursed by the Sisters of S. Vincent de Paul, whose quaint old-world costume harmonises well with the present hospital. This building was in the days of Queen Anne part of the Royal Nursery, and Jonathan Richardson, the artist, and the friend of Pope, at one time lived there, as did also Dr. William Stukeley, the celebrated antiquarian, together with Fanny Burney and her father.

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It is a matter for congratulation that at last the subject of the overcrowding of the Richmond Asylum is on the point of being effectively dealt with. In 1887 the medical superintendent, Dr. Conolly Norman, drew attention to the subject. In 1890 the Inspectors reported that the overcrowding tended to paralyse "every effort to treat the insane with due regard to the nature of their diseases, yet, at the present time this Asylum, which it is stated on official authority cannot properly accommodate more than 1,000 patients, is said to contain 1,652. Since the beginning of June there have been under treatment in the Asylum, suffering from beri-beri, 134 female and 42 male patients, 3 nurses, and 2 attendants. As beri-beri is almost entirely an oriental disease, and overcrowding is said to be one of its chief causes, it is satisfactory to know that the Lord-lieutenant of Ireland has decided to close the Grangegorman Prison, as a prison, and to hand it over to the Governors of the Richmond Asylum. It may be hoped, therefore, that we have heard the last of the overcrowding, and consequent evils, of this Asylum, although even now the accommodation provided by the prison is not sufficient, and will have to be supplemented by temporary buildings. The governors of the Richmond Asylum have passed a well merited vote of thanks upon the initiative of the Chairman, to their medical superintendent, Dr. Conolly Norman, for the manner in which, in spite of some opposition, he has continually kept the question before the public.

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