

## The Hospital World.

### NEW INFIRMARY PAVILION, HACKNEY UNION.

HOMERTON is a depressing suburb certainly. As one passes down the streets from the station to the Infirmary, with their cheap villas, dingy shops, in which fried fish seems a conspicuous item, and past the street stalls where stale vegetables are on sale, one feels thankful that one's own lines are in pleasanter places. But when once one has arrived at the Infirmary and made acquaintance with its new pavilion, one's views become modified, and the conviction is borne in upon one, that after all life in Homerton might be more than tolerable—it might be exceedingly pleasant.

For the new pavilion, which was opened last week, is charming, and the Guardians may well be proud of it. It contains eight wards, each providing accommodation for twenty-five patients, while outside each ward is a small one containing two beds to accommodate patients whom it is desirable for any reason should not be placed in the general wards. The building is not yet occupied, but some of the wards are furnished, and fully equipped. Nothing could less resemble the picture which the words "workhouse infirmary" bring before the minds of many people. To the majority they still convey a somewhat dreary and barren place, but in this, the latest of our State Hospitals, the whole atmosphere is one of comfort and pleasantness. The floors are of polished oak, and the walls have a dado of pale green glazed bricks; above this they are of Parian cement, painted a pretty shade of terra-cotta, and stencil panelled, forming an effective background to the coloured prints, framed by the inmates of the workhouse, which adorn them.

All the angles, as is usual nowadays, are rounded. The bedsteads are iron, with wire mattresses. The bedding appears to be excellent, while the white quilts and scarlet bed jackets produce the combined effect of cleanliness and cheerfulness. At intervals, up the centre of the ward, are tables with bright covers; and light screens, with pretty washing covers, add just the necessary touches of colour. Seats are plentiful, and the wheel chair for helpless patients has not been forgotten. The lockers also, are unusually nice. One locker is shared by two patients, but it has two distinct cupboards with shelves, and a little drawer. A rail at the back makes the necessary provision for towels and brush and comb bags. Panels in front, of perforated zinc, afford ventilation, and are distinct improvement upon ventilation at the back of the locker between strips of wood, in which case not only is the locker ventilated, but the dust of the wards at sweeping times finds an easy entrance. The lockers are stained a dark brown colour, and the tops are formed of marble slabs. Bed tables stained the same colour are also provided for the

use of the patients. The wards are heated by means of Teale's stoves and steam pipes. The system of ventilation appears to be admirable. The lavatories and bath rooms are placed in turrets divided from the wards by short passages in which cross ventilation is provided. The fittings, including the bath, are of china, and hot pipes form the rails for towels. Outside the wards runs a balcony where the convalescent patients can enjoy the fresh air, and an outside iron staircase affords a means of exit in case of fire. The ward kitchens are stocked with everything that nurses and patients can require, even being liberally supplied with white china salt cellars, and pepper castors, a refinement which has not yet extended to many hospitals. The kitcheners are so planned that either a coal fire or a gas stove may be used, an obvious advantage when a fire is not required. A spacious larder is provided on each floor as well as a linen room, amply stocked, and provided with hot water pipes. The pavilion is provided with a lift large enough to contain a bed as well as attendant.

So much for the structure. With regard to the all important question of nursing, it would appear that it is only within the last few weeks that a trained matron has been appointed. Probably, therefore, Miss Griffiths, the new matron, will have to initiate, and carry out reforms, before the nursing department is organized on modern lines, and attains to the efficiency of the present recognized standard, but with the modern conveniences and appliances at her disposal this organization should be comparatively easy to accomplish. The Hackney Union is, we observe, at present advertising for an assistant matron, charge nurses, and probationers, so that it would seem that steps are already being taken to organize the nursing department. We take this opportunity of expressing our good wishes to Miss Griffiths for her success and happiness in her new work.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The balance of the fund raised last year at the Mansion House, at the instance of the Princess of Wales, for providing a dinner for the poor of London in celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, has been distributed as follows by Sir George Faudel-Phillips:—Destitute Children's Dinner Society, £150; Children's Country Holiday Fund, £105; Mr. Alderman Treloar, towards the expenses of the recent entertainment to ragged and crippled children in the Guildhall, £100; Factory Girls' Country Holiday Fund, £50; Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage, £50; Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, £262 13s. 2d.

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The Duke of Cambridge, President of the Sanitary Institute, will preside at the institute dinner on March 23rd.

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