

## The Hospital World.

## THE BROOK HOSPITAL.

A JOURNEY down to Blackheath, and then some three miles by road—for part of which, if one is fortunate, one can get an omnibus—and one arrives at the Brook Hospital. It is well to make an early start if one does not wish to be belated, more especially if one does not like a long and somewhat lonely walk after dark. The Brook Hospital is close to the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. It is quite a small town, the residents numbering, when there is the full complement of patients, 900, all told.

The accommodation for the nursing and domestic staff is excellent. Each one has a separate room, nicely furnished, and the nurses' and servants' sitting rooms are all that can be desired in point of comfort. One contrasts the provisions in this respect with that which obtained in many of our general hospitals, as recently as ten years ago, and thinks that the nurses under the Asylums' Board are fortunate indeed.

Whatever may be said with regard to the cost of the building, the arrangement is certainly excellent. Each ward has its own kitchen, linen room, and larder, the last being a necessity too often left out in the plans of a hospital, and the necessity of keeping food in unventilated cupboards in the ward is therefore forced upon the unwilling staff. A routine practice at the Brook is to sterilize all mugs and spoons twice a day, a custom which strikes one as sanitary and desirable. Some of the wards present quite a tropical appearance, as the beds and cots are furnished with mosquito nets. "We have so many mosquitoes and flies," says Miss Bann, "that we have found it necessary." One thinks of the theory that the zone of the mosquito and of malaria are identical, and wonders if malaria will follow in the wake of this troublesome pest. It should, more especially as the already debilitated patients would be especially susceptible to it. An arrangement in the lavatories struck me as admirable, a zinc rack for bedpans, and in the hollow slab of zinc which forms the top of the rack, there is always hot water. On this slab, one or more bedpans are always placed, so that a warm one is always in readiness. Of course, no well-trained nurse gives a patient a cold bedpan, but it is often hard to know how to warm it. There is an excellent arrangement also for cleansing the inside of urinals, always a difficult proceeding. One other item may be noted, the little boxes carried always by the ambulance nurses. They are of zinc and padlocked, and contain a label for the patient, a form on which the history as obtained from the friends is noted, and four bottles for stimulants.

M. B.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The following bulletin has been published during the week concerning His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who is now in Scotland:—

"Eight weeks have now elapsed since the accident to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

"Since the last bulletin was issued, three weeks ago, most satisfactory progress has taken place.

"The apparatus, which it will be necessary for his Royal Highness to wear during the day time for many weeks, has been fitted, and has already enabled the Prince to walk with ease on level ground with the assistance of a single stick.

"The massage and passive movement are continued, and a considerable degree of mobility has been obtained in the knee joint.

"The stay on board ship, practically in the open air, has proved of supreme importance to the general health, and the last few days at Osborne House have also been most beneficial, as it has enabled his Royal Highness to enjoy the advantage of a great amount of exercise both indoors and in his carriage."

At the quarterly court of governors, of the London Hospital, the report announced the welcome fact that £77,000 in donations had either been received or promised, as well as £11,000 in annual subscriptions.

Amongst the donations received during the quarter were £1,000 from "J. A. F.," £250, anonymously, £511 collected on the Coal Exchange, and £500 from Mrs. Turner. A cot would also be endowed in the institution in memory of the late Sir Frank Lockwood, by the committee of the Lockwood Memorial Fund.

It was also stated that, in view of the improvements now being carried out, the hospital will benefit to the extent of £5,000 a year from the Prince of Wales's Fund, this grant having been made conditional upon the undertaking of the structural and other improvements, involving an outlay of some £80,000 to £90,000.

The extent of these alterations and enlargements was communicated to a *Daily Mail* representative by Mr. G. O. Roberts, who for ten years has acted as house governor and secretary to the hospital. They include the removal of the old spinal wall, running between the two main wards back and front, which will secure a needed cross-ventilation hitherto unattainable; the building of a complete set of modern and efficient operating theatres; the provision of a new out-patient department; better isolation accommodation; the construction of a new mortuary and post-mortem rooms; and the addition of a photographic and Röntgen ray laboratory

The four new operating theatres will be models of all that modern science can devise. Their construction will cost some £13,000, which is being defrayed by an

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