

The Hospital World.**THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.**

CERTAINLY the best known, and probably the most perfectly appointed, provincial hospital is the General Hospital, Birmingham, built and equipped, as it is, upon all the most modern principles. Outside, it is an imposing, red-brick structure, built on the block system. Inside, the wards are light and airy, the floors being of polished oak; the doors separating the wards from the central corridors have glass panels, the effect being excellent, but the arrangement must have its drawbacks in increased publicity.

The ventilation is effected by means of a somewhat complicated system. There are no fires, as warmed air is forced into the wards; it enters at the top and passes out at the bottom. None of the windows open, the admission of air—straight from outside—being considered unadvisable. The operating theatres, of which there are four, are models of modern perfection. Besides the anæsthetic room, another little room adjoins the theatre, in which the nurses cleanse bowls and macintoshes, and sterilise instruments, &c., used in the theatre.

The architect has added greatly to the beauty of the building by introducing arches at various points, which are certainly most effective. These are specially to be observed in the out-patients' hall, a most handsome building. It is supported on all four sides, at a little distance from the walls, by arches. Out of this central hall open various smaller rooms, in which the physicians and surgeons see their patients.

The kitchens are, as is usual in modern hospitals, at the very top of the building; and very nice they are, the floors tessellated, and the walls tiled with white tiles. The large table upon which the dinners are served is covered with a hot-water plate. On this floor are stores for meat, milk, groceries, etc., and the housekeeper's room—a most comfortable apartment.

The Nurses' Home is connected with the hospital by a charming conservatory in which the nurses can make themselves thoroughly comfortable when off duty. On one side of it is an asphalt tennis court for the use of the nurses, and on the other a green lawn, so that, even in the centre of this busy city, where land is extremely valuable, the well being of the nurses has been thoughtfully considered. The home itself has been well and comfortably furnished, all the nurses having separate rooms. The walls of the dining and sitting-rooms are hung with beautiful water colours, presented by Birmingham artists.

The nursing school of the hospital, which is now under the able superintendence of Miss Mary Esther Jones, has an excellent reputation as a training school.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



WITH the approval of the Queen, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, has appointed three Knights of Justice—Lord Templeton, late Almoner, Sir Alfred Jephson, Secretary-General, and Colonel Windham Murray—to proceed to Jerusalem in order to receive the Emperor William at the Hospital of the Order there.

It seems almost incredible in these days in such an Order of Humanity, that the first rank, the Knighthood of Justice, is closed except to those who can genealogically prove that a certain number of their forefathers have borne arms. This is, perhaps, the reason why the value of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England is of so perfunctory a nature.

The Queen has appointed Sir William MacCormac, Bart., President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Sir Francis Henry Laking, M.D., to be Knights Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, and Mr. Alfred Downing Fripp, and Fleet-Surgeon Alfred Gideon Delmege, M.D., to be Members of the Fourth Class of the same Order, in recognition of their services in connection with the recent accident met with by the Prince of Wales.

The important thing of the week, in the Medical world, has been the re-opening of the Medical Schools; and the visit of Professor Rudolph Virchow, Director of the Berlin Pathological Institute, and formerly Rector Magnificus of the University of Berlin, to give the opening lecture of the Charing Cross School, at which the chair was taken by Lord Lister, P.R.S., is undoubtedly the event which has overshadowed all others. At St. Thomas's Hospital the Bishop of Rochester presented the prizes to the successful students. At St. Mary's Dr. H. A. Caley lectured on Prevention in Medicine, and at University College the address was delivered by Mr. Sidney Spokes, M.R.C.S.

It has been reported to the Battersea Vestry by the Medical Officer of Health that the notifications of diphtheria in the district governed by the vestry number on an average five per week. The badly ventilated condition of the main lower sewer is said to be the cause of the outbreak, and the matter is having the serious attention of the vestry.

Lady Frederick Cavendish, who during the Church Congress addressed so many meetings of women, on Saturday opened the St. Catherine's Home for Incurables and Cancer Patients in Bradford, erected at a cost of £10,000 by Mr. and Mrs. J. Cawthra. The Bishop of Ripon was present.

The Hopper's Hospital at Oak Green, in Kent, is doing an excellent work for the children of the hop-

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