

The Hospital World.

THE NEW INFIRMARY, HENDON.

THE New Infirmary at Hendon is the latest of our great State Hospitals, and with a Medical Superintendent and a Matron possessing wide experience of Poor Law Administration, and with the interests of the sick closely at heart, the institution should prove a haven of rest for the sick poor, as well as a valuable training ground for nurses.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Infirmary in the company of the newly-appointed Matron, Miss Elma Smith, who has, for the last eight years, done such excellent work as Matron of the Central London Sick Asylum in Cleveland Street. From her I learnt that the wards are to be placed under the care of Sisters, with staff nurses and probationers working under them—the organization, in fact, is to be precisely that of a well organized general hospital. The use of the title of Sister for the head nurse of the ward, was not adopted at the Cleveland Street Infirmary, but there is no doubt that its use gives her a defined position in the ward, that she is, in consequence, accorded increased respect by nurses and patients alike, and that it makes for discipline, and is, therefore, of real value.

On arrival at the Infirmary, one is struck by its admirable position, on a slight elevation, commanding an extensive view, and open to the invigorating breezes and delightful air in which patients must surely, if anywhere, regain health.

In the centre of the building is the administrative block, the entrance hall of which is very handsome. East and west of this are two Ward Pavilions, each two stories high, those on the east being for male, and on the west for female patients. There are windows on each side and at the ends of the wards, so that they are admirably lighted and ventilated. A specially charming feature are the wide verandahs, on which convalescent patients can sit out and enjoy the invigorating air. The floors are of polished pine, and electric lights are installed over the beds and down the centre of the wards.

The bedsteads are of the Lawson Tait pattern, at the head are castors with india-rubber tyres, and at the foot the legs are let into india-rubber blocks. All the mattresses are made in three separate pieces. The lockers have on the left hand side an inset of zinc for the reception of spitting cups. This is removable, and can be easily boiled.

Outside the ward proper are store-rooms, affording ample accommodation for linen and other stores, while a larder cupboard in the kitchen is provided for food. All the wards are connected with the Medical Officer's house, and

the other departments of the Infirmary by telephone.

To the east of the male wards are an operating theatre, of which the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Hopkins is justly proud, a padded room, of which both floor and walls are lined with india-rubber, and the children's pavilion. Westward are isolation blocks, and the whole of these are connected with the administrative block, and with one another, by a long corridor running the whole length of the building. In connection with the administrative block are the receiving rooms, where patients are taken in, washed, and clothed in garments supplied by the Institution before being sent to the wards. Provision is made for two beds for men, and two for women, so that patients can be nursed there for a while.

Behind the Administrative block and connected with it, are the kitchens, with everything on a large scale—the cauldron, for instance, in which a quarter of a ton of potatoes can be boiled in twenty minutes, the huge wire basket for vegetables, and the great ovens. The nurses' and servants' mess rooms adjoin the kitchen, and the Matron's stores and office are also at hand, while the Steward's stores are a sight to behold, and suggest that, if the place were in a state of seige, the garrison could hold out for months.

The laundry where the washing of Cleveland Street, as well as that of the Hendon Infirmary will be done, is provided with all the newest appliances. There are three departments—that for foul linen, for general use, and for the linen of the Officers of the establishment.

The Mortuary is a proof that more consideration is being given to this department of hospitals and infirmaries than in past days, and the arrangements are seemly, a room being provided from which the relatives of the deceased person may view the remains while divided from them by a sheet of glass.

To the extreme right of the Central Block is the Medical Superintendent's house, where we were hospitably given tea by Mrs. Hopkins. Corresponding to this, on the left is the Nurses' Home, a building which all concerned may contemplate with extreme satisfaction. Especially noticeable is the accommodation provided for sick nurses, two rooms, each containing two beds, and bath-room and lavatory accommodation, divided from the rest of the Home by glass doors, being set aside for this purpose.

To the kindness of Dr. Hopkins I am indebted for the description I am able to afford the readers of the RECORD, as he most courteously acted as my guide, explaining everything—a task of no little magnitude and occupying about two hours. The block of the accompanying picture is kindly lent by Mr. F. W. Bailey, Clerk to the Board.

M. B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)