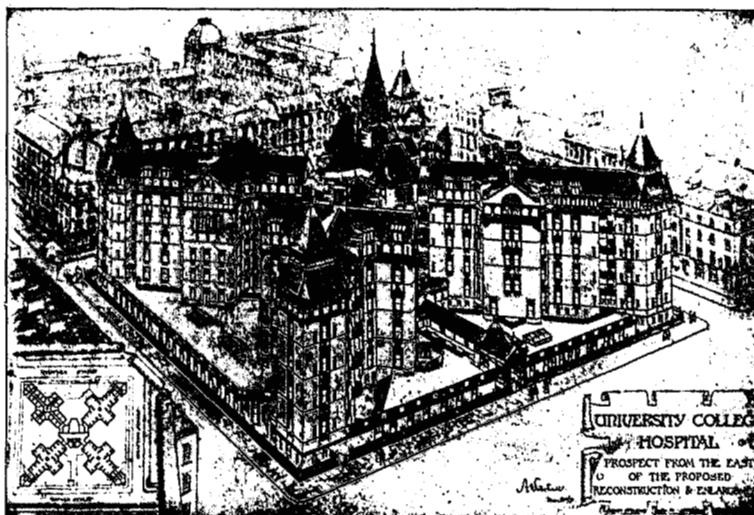


The Hospital World.**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.**

THE first block of the new building of University College Hospital is now occupied by patients, and though the nursing staff is still busy getting everything into apple-pie order, still the arrangements of the wards are sufficiently advanced to enable one to form an opinion of their merits. The complete hospital, as is generally known, is to be in the shape of a St. Andrew's cross, and of this one arm is now finished, and the second arm, which is the Nurses' Home, is nearing completion. The block, which was informally opened a fortnight ago, contains three surgical wards,—two for men and one for women,—and a gynaecological ward. There are also three

operating theatres, one of these being a gynaecological one. These are, of course, fitted up with the very latest appliances. The walls are of marble about two-thirds of the way up, and above are painted with a white, washable enamel paint. The gallery provided for the accommodation of the students is also of marble, but it has wooden rails, in which it must be possible, one would imagine, for the "wily microbe" to find a lodgment. The students' entrance to the theatre is from the floor above. They descend to their places, and do not pass through the theatre proper. An enamelled stand into which two basins could be fitted, is a distinct advance on the ordinary table, and some charming cans for sterilized water, in which the spout is covered by a tiny, metal flap, seemed wholly admirable. These cans have the ordinary half-circle lid, so that they can be opened and cleaned, but they are filled with the sterilized water through a small, circular hole, about an inch in diameter, which has also its protecting, revolving lid. The wards are bright and cheerful, and are approached from



a lobby having cross ventilation. Their freshness and good ventilation is noticeable. They are of unusual shape, being built, like the hospital, of a cruciform shape, but the cross is a Latin, not a St. Andrew's one. At the extreme end are, on one side the bath-room and lavatory, on the other the kitchen, divided from the ward by short passages. These are both of the most curious, uneven shape—indeed, there does not seem to be a square or oblong room in the whole building. In the centre of the ward is a stove with a fireplace on either side, which goes up to the ceiling, and must, to some extent, prevent an uninterrupted view of all the patients at the same time. The wards do not, however, depend on this stove entirely for their warmth, as they are heated as well by hot-water pipes. On one side of the stove is a lava slab coated with white

enamel; a specimen slab is on view at the Charing Cross Hospital exhibit at Earl's Court, and is supposed to be preferable to glass for aseptic tables on account of its superior strength. It is interesting to note its employment at University College Hospital, as this is the first occasion in which we

have seen it in practical use, and it is there employed as a table for testing purposes. The "hardest material known" appears not to be wholly satisfactory, however, for in one ward we noticed that the slab, in fixing, had been cracked right across. As we mentioned these tables in our notice of the Earl's Court Exhibit, we draw attention to this defect, which has come under our personal notice. The wards are of a pleasant primrose colour, with a dark green dado; they are lighted and ventilated by windows on both sides which have top lights, opening inwards. These, no doubt, add much to the freshness of the ward, but it will probably be found necessary to shade them by some means, otherwise the patients will suffer from the inevitable glare. The beds are

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)