

The Hospital World.

THE NURSES' HOME, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

The nurses of University College Hospital are to be congratulated on their new Home, more particularly as for years past, especially during the process of rebuilding, they have had to make the best of temporary accommodation in neighbouring houses, and certainly have not been lodged under ideal conditions. The new Home is located in one of the four wings of the new building, which, as our readers know, is built in the form of a St. Andrew's Cross. The lower floors, which have a separate entrance from those above, are devoted to the use of the resident medical staff. The Nurses' Home is approached from the Hospital by a corridor, and on entering it the first room one sees is a comfortably-furnished waiting-room, where the visitors to nurses are shown. This is a great boon, as in many hospitals no room of this kind is provided, and the reception which the friends of the nursing staff meet is in consequence somewhat chilling. On this floor is a most comfortably furnished and pleasant sitting-room for the Sisters when off duty—a necessity, as they have no rooms near the wards. The Sisters' bedrooms are also tastefully furnished, and are used by them to some extent as private sitting-rooms. The quaint shape of the rooms, few of which are square, certainly adds to the possibility of attractive arrangement.

On the floor above is the nurses' sitting-room, a charming room, substantially and harmoniously furnished; and each nurse has a bedroom to herself; a boon indeed, which only nurses who were trained in the eighties, when in most of our hospitals two or more nurses shared a room, can properly appreciate. These rooms are comfortably furnished and have commodious hanging cupboards, which must be a joy to their possessors. Each nurse has a key to her room, which she can leave locked. We learn that the rooms are thoroughly turned out once a week, but otherwise the nurses are entirely responsible for keeping them in order. This is to be regretted, as nurses do much domestic work when on duty in the wards, and we think the day has gone by when they should be required to perform domestic duties in their Home. Good service is, we know, somewhat costly, and University College Hospital is poor, and this may in part account for the arrangement. But the difficulty might be got over, and the value of the training given to the probationers be increased, if a preliminary nurse-training school were organised on the lines of that at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, where the pupils of the preliminary school perform, under supervision, all the work of the Home. They are thus taught the best methods of domestic management, the Nurses

Home is kept in a most dainty and spotless condition, and the hospital pays nothing for domestic service.

It is somewhat a matter for surprise that University College Hospital, which has so able and excellent a Secretary, and a well-organised nursing school, should be so badly supported by the public. Our inquiries in various quarters lead us to believe that the public are shy of affording it pecuniary help because, rightly or wrongly, they regard the medical school of the hospital as being in the forefront of the vivisection movement, and it is undeniable that the philanthropic portion of the public are by no means eager to give financial support to institutions where vivisection is extensively practised.

But this is a digression. To return to the Nurses' Home, we must mention that the dining-room is not yet built, though it is hoped that it will be completed in the course of the next few months.

Each floor of the Home is provided with bath-rooms, and there is a constant and ample supply of hot water. The baths provided are in a proportion of about one to every seven or eight nurses, and, as the night and day nurses do not need the bath-rooms at the same time, this allowance is quite sufficient. The top floor is devoted to the maids, who also have their own bath-rooms.

The whole building is heated throughout by steam. A noticeable arrangement is the provision of small stoves in the corridor, on which the nurses can boil kettles for the inevitable and ever-welcome cup of tea. The darkness of the corridors appears to be due to some architectural defect, which is to be regretted. The impression which the Home as a whole gives one, however, is that it is both convenient and comfortable, and that it will be a boon to the nurses for whose accommodation it has been designed and erected.

Hospital Saturday Fund.

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Delegates of the Metropolitan Hospital Saturday Fund was held on Saturday evening at the offices, Gray's Inn Road. The reports of the various Standing Committees, which were adopted, showed that the receipts from the workshops and business houses from January to September had amounted to £10,196, being an increase upon the corresponding period of last year of £331. During the quarter the organising secretaries had paid 1,035 visits to firms on behalf of the Fund. Preparations for the special annual Hospital Saturday collection in the industrial establishments on behalf of the medical charities, fixed for Saturday, October 11th, were completed. It is hoped that the ultimate total for the present year will not fall short of £25,000.

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