

## The Hospital World.

### THE NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

#### THE MORTUARY.

Six years ago, when contributing to this journal a description of the mortuaries of some of the principal London hospitals, I wrote:—"At the New Hospital for Women in the Euston Road, a hospital in which women presumably had a considerable voice in the arrangements, it jars upon one that the only mortuary provided is the post-mortem room. . . Any relative who desires to see a body after it has been removed from the ward sees it on the post-mortem table."

I hasten, therefore, to say that this description no longer holds good, but that a mortuary-chamber has now been built on to the post-mortem room, the reverent and quiet simplicity of which leaves nothing to be desired. The walls, which are colour-washed, have a dado of stained and varnished boards. Opposite the door is a narrow ledge bearing a cross and flowers, and to the right of it is a prayer desk. In the centre is a bier, covered by a pall. The whole is in exquisite order, and is evidently attended to by one who realises that patients who have passed away are entitled to the same consideration as the living so long as they remain in the care of the hospital. It is certain that nothing is more appreciated by relatives of patients, more especially of children, than considerate care of their bodies after death, and there is cause for rejoicing that one by one the cold, bare, whitewashed mortuaries, with their grim surroundings, their black lidless shells, covered by white sheets if occupied, or exposed to view when empty, are disappearing from our midst, and are replaced by buildings worthy of the purpose for which they are designed. There is little doubt that the change has been brought about mainly by the efforts of the heads of the nursing departments of the various hospitals.

The recently-appointed Matron of the New Hospital, Miss Cox-Davies, is now installed, and appears very pleased with her surroundings. And no wonder! One never visits this hospital without being struck afresh with its charm, and the indefinable air of comfort which pervades it. The blue-tiled dado in all the passages is a great feature, the circular wards are charming as charming can be, and one catches glimpses here and there of delightful old bits of furniture which one would like to carry away bodily. One is glad to think that the hospital was built through the exertions of women, is maintained largely by their efforts, and that it not only is doctored by them, but also acts as a medical school for future generations, a fact which is impressed upon one as one meets from time to time girlish students in white linen coats on their way to the wards.

M. B.

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



At the Annual Service at St. Paul's Cathedral last week, organised by the Guild of St. Luke, over 1,000 members were present, the majority wearing the robes appropriate to their degrees. Amongst them were Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., Mrs. Stanley Boyd, M.D., and Mrs. Dickinson Berry, M.D.

The Duke of Beaufort, President of the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, in pleading for increased support for the institution, says:—"During the past twelve months the donations have been much less than during the previous year. In the whole of August and September only £14 was received in donations, though the expenses are over £12 daily. "I plead," says his Grace, "for helpless children, diseased, crippled, and unable to plead for themselves." Contributions should be sent to the secretary at the hospital, to Messrs. Hoare, 37, Fleet Street, or to Messrs. Drummond, 49, Charing Cross.

On Sunday afternoon, after a church parade of members of the London companies of the Royal Army Medical Corps at St. Bartholomew's the Great, Smithfield, at which the rector, the Rev. Sir Borradaile Savory, who is chaplain to the companies, officiated, Surgeon-General Sir W. Taylor, Director-General of the Army Medical Service, unveiled a brass tablet in the Lady Chapel to the memory of those men of the corps who died while on service in South Africa.

The reports made to the Local Government Board by Dr. Bruce Low with reference to the bubonic plague have been issued in a volume of 446 pages. They provide a detailed account of the progress and diffusion of the malady throughout the world from 1898 to 1901 and of the measures employed in different countries for the repression of the disease.

An inquest was held last week on a patient who was admitted to St. Thomas's Hospital on August 30th suffering from burns. There he developed pneumonia, which caused his death. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

The chaplain of Westminster Hospital warns the public against a specious begging-letter impostor who is endeavouring to make capital out of having been a patient in the institution, where he was taken by the police after attempting to commit suicide.

The lengthy controversy as to the future site of the Manchester Royal Infirmary seems at last concluded by the adoption of an almost unanimous resolution in favour of a site in Stanley Grove. A conference with the Corporation with a view to the disposal of the present site for a free library and art gallery will probably be one of the first steps taken.

The Hospital Sunday returns in Birmingham have been brought up to £3,412 1s. 2d.

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