

time by thirty-seven more. As soon as the patients could be removed, they were taken to the relief ship anchored in the gulf.

"After Peking was captured work was not so heavy. Five more nurses were added to the force, and the eight-hour system was introduced; this gave us some leisure hours, and we made visits around the country in the ambulance with the doctors, guarded by soldiers. Sometimes we travelled in rickshaws. We visited the hospitals of other nations, the arsenals, Great Wall, temples, and the shops, where many beautiful Oriental embroideries, silks, and garments could be bought. All along the Peiho river could be seen breastworks of rice and peanuts, and various flags flying, about eight nations being represented.

"The nurses were kindly received and entertained by Mrs. Ragsdale, wife of the American consul. On November 4th ten nurses were ordered with troops to Manila. The six nurses remaining were ordered to Peking for the winter. The nurses endured all hardships with great patience, and not one, I am sure, will regret the time spent in China."

The Melbourne Hospitals.

We learn with much regret that the financial condition of the leading hospitals in Melbourne is causing serious consideration. It is publicly stated that at the present time there is hardly a medical charity in Melbourne in a secure pecuniary position, and the most important of them are the most embarrassed. Their difficulties have moreover become intensified as the Charities' Vote, by which the hospitals are aided, has been reduced by £20,000. Of all the institutions the Melbourne Hospital seems to be in the worst position. Its expenditure has been reduced to the lowest point, but both subscriptions and municipal grants have largely declined, and the loss of revenue from these two sources, together with the reduction of the Government grant, amounted to nearly £1,000 during the last three months. It is impossible that this state of things should continue, but the Committee of the Hospital do not know how it is to be remedied. They suggest that the simplest method of reducing their expenditure would be to close some of their beds, and this is the common-sense plan which has been adopted during recent years by many London hospitals. Unfortunately this is, so far as the poor are concerned, a very desperate remedy, because it means that the difficulty of obtaining admission even for urgent cases is so increased that patients dangerously ill may pass, whilst waiting for a bed, beyond the reach of all cure, or even of alleviation, of their disease. It is greatly to be hoped, therefore, that times will soon mend in Australia.

The Canadian Hospital World.

THE ROSS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

A most beautiful hospital has been built and equipped at Lindsay, Victoria County, Canada, by Mr. James Ross, of Montreal, as a memorial to his father and mother, who lived many years in the town. The day of its opening was an ideal one, and hundreds of people flocked into the town from the surrounding districts to be present at the interesting ceremony. It was an imposing function; the drive into the grounds was lined by a guard of honour of the Collegiate Institute Cadets, and Mr. and Mrs. Ross were received by the Hospital Committee, the Chairman of which presented Mrs. Ross with a gold latchkey. With this she unlocked the doors and declared the institution open to the public. There was a large number of visitors present, including some from Montreal and Toronto. Amongst the latter was Miss Snively, Lady Superintendent of the Training School for Nurses connected with the General Hospital in that city.

Testimony of the work which has preceded the completion of the building was afforded by the regretted absence of Mrs. Grace, one of the Governors of the hospital, and the sister of Mr. James Ross, which was due to the strain consequent upon her labours in connection with furnishing the hospital. It is also reported that on the evening of the opening day it seemed probable that the Lady Superintendent, Miss Scott, would be the first patient, as she was threatened with paralysis of the wrist and fingers, caused by excessive hand-shaking.

The hospital is a magnificent one, and has been furnished in a most lavish manner. The building itself is as nearly fireproof as possible. The handsome entrance-hall leads to a main corridor. Each ward contains six beds, the bedsteads being of white enamelled iron; the bedside tables, with frames of the same material, have plate-glass tops, and oak chairs, and a writing-table, with a student's lamp are also provided, as well as a white folding screen for each bed. There are also single wards for private patients, and a most attractive general sitting-room is provided for their use, having large French windows opening on to a sun-parlour, which in summer will be covered by an awning.

The operating theatre, in the opinion of those qualified to judge, is the most perfectly equipped in Canada. Perhaps only good housewives can thoroughly appreciate the tastefulness and daintiness which characterises the entire furnishings. The china, linen, and blankets are all of fine quality, and bear the monogram "Ross Memorial Hospital."

The nurses' quarters are charming, the dining-room being an inviting room, with three large plate-glass windows set in octagon faces. The carpet is in rich colourings, and the chairs, tables, and book-case are of Flemish oak.

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