

it is a small room which must be a joy to the studious or literary nurse, which is intended for a writing room, and in which the rule of silence is to be observed. The wall on one side is lined with a well-filled bookcase, constituting the nurses' library, which contains books on professional subjects as well as works of fiction. The Sisters' sitting-room is a most bright and cheery room, and the comfortable chairs look most inviting. The Sisters' bedrooms, which are also evidently used as private sitting-rooms, are very comfortably furnished, and are provided with a long mirror, either in the door of a wardrobe or inset in a cupboard flush with the wall. The cupboards are provided with revolving hooks, each having four pegs, and over the hanging cupboards are others, in which handboxes, &c., can be stowed away. The washstands are provided with a deep cupboard, one side of which is utilised for the inevitable teapot and cup and saucer which every nurse regards as an essential part of her equipment. In the passage, a kettle, which, on being connected with the current, boils by electricity in ten minutes, has been thoughtfully provided. The water supply includes a separate tap for drinking-water.

Each Sister, nurse, and servant has a separate bedroom, and individuality is strongly evidenced by the arrangement of these rooms. In some instances the display of flowers was elaborate, while one room had a special charm by reason of the excellent engravings and copies of the old masters which adorned the walls. There are no fanlights, so that it is not possible, without opening a bedroom door, to know if the rule as to "lights out" is observed; but, as Miss Heather-Bigg believes in treating the nursing staff as responsible individuals, not as schoolgirls, it is probable that they respond to her confidence. On each floor is, of course, the necessary bath-room and lavatory accommodation. One room, containing two beds, is set aside as a sick-room in the event of any of the staff requiring nursing care. This is connected by telephone with the resident medical officers' quarters and the kitchen. We hope soon to hear of the appointment of a Home Sister, as it is manifest that the Matron of the hospital cannot be expected to exercise the requisite general supervision and also to give the detailed care necessary to maintain such a Home in a condition of efficiency. The appointment would afford valuable post-graduate experience in domestic management to certificated nurses.

The report of the Council of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses for 1902 shows an increase in the total amount received over the previous year. The explanatory report on the position of the Fund for the five years ended December 31st, 1902, will not be ready for three or four months.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Now that the Lord Mayor has announced that the present site upon which St. Bartholomew's Hospital has stood for centuries is to be utilised to the very utmost for the erection of a hospital as perfect as human ingenuity can make it, and this course is being energetically pursued, we think it is time that the daily press ceased heckling the authorities. Their object (the withdrawal of a public appeal for funds in the meantime) having been effected, the London Hospital quinquennial appeal has, therefore, a fair field and all the favour.

But we still maintain that splendid old Bart.'s has a right to all the financial support its long-time friends and admirers choose to give it. The circumstances of rebuilding are exceptional, and we hope the "City" will rally royally to its aid. £300,000 is a very moderate sum taken from the snug coffers of City companies. Let each Master put in his thumb and pull out a plum. This would give an encouraging start to the fund, which could be subscribed by City merchants alone, without going further afield.

The Bishop of London presided at the annual meeting of the New Hospital for Women, and said all sorts of sympathetic things about its work. There was no place, he would venture to say, where a better tone or spirit prevailed than in that hospital. Those who were engaged in the work of the hospital were giving their services in the true spirit that made for success—a spirit of fellowship and of harmony. The report stated that the Queen had graciously given the hospital her patronage, and it was hoped that the interest in the hospital which Her Majesty had thus shown, as well as on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone in 1889, would prove most helpful to it. He was also informed that a scheme was on foot for a memorial bed in connection with the Emperor and Empress Frederick.

The hospital now contained fifty-two beds, and the number of in-patients during the year was 619, this being in excess of any previous year. Of these 230 were medical cases, 361 surgical, and twenty-eight ophthalmic. The number of new out-patients had been 7,443 (including 221 in the children's department), over 900 of whom came up from the country for advice. There were 7,808 renewals of letters; and the total number of attendances amounted to 33,568. In the ophthalmic department 769 new cases had been seen, with a total of 3,358 attendances. The report again called attention to the serious state of the hospital finances. To keep the institution free from debt, at least £5,500 was required annually. During each of the last three years the receipts had failed to balance the expenses.

Dr. Robertson, Bishop-designate of Exeter, who proposed the committee of management for the ensuing year, said that there was ample room for women surgeons as well as for men, and medical science would be a great field of usefulness for women in years

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