

## The Hospital World.

### THE FRAUENSPITAL AT ZÜRICH.

Writing to the *Lancet*, a correspondent says of the Frauenspital at Zürich:—

This hospital is often termed the *Pflegerinnenschule* or Training School for Nurses, for at the back of the whole hospital scheme lay the idea that women require training and guidance to nurse successfully even the sick in their own homes. The hospital was added to the nursing department, much as a practising school is added to a normal college, to give the students opportunities of observation and practice. This idea first occurred to Dr. Anna Heer, a medical woman established in Zürich, in 1896, probably not without some experience of the necessity for having medical instructions faithfully and intelligently carried out in her patients' interests. The Swiss Ladies' Society, the *Frauenverein*, had by this time successfully effected many useful pieces of public work, such as establishing a home for the training of servants, a school of housewifery, *crèches* for children, of which three are in Zürich, the supplying of lady helps, and so forth. Dr. Anna Heer therefore addressed herself to the *Frauenverein* which discussed the subject at Geneva in 1896 during the exhibition season. A committee of nineteen ladies, known as the *Krankenpflege* (care of the sick) Committee, was formed from all parts of Switzerland, seven residing in or near Zürich. Here, too, Dr. Heer found a most able assistant in Fräulein Ida Schneider, who zealously took up the correspondence and heartily co-operated with her. Dr. Marie Heim, also practising in Zürich and now consulting physician in the children's department of the hospital, was another earnest fellow-worker who played a most important part in the launching of the scheme.

Before deciding on the plan to be adopted for the new building, Dr. Heer and Fräulein Schneider travelled to Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, Paris, Stettin, and elsewhere for the purpose of examining the special features of the hospitals in these cities. The site was selected in a new and hilly suburb of Zürich, Hottingen. It cost 124,000 francs, although a generous municipality let the Committee off a third of the cost as its work was one of mercy. There is no hospital proper like it in Switzerland, Germany, or France, still less in England, sanatoriums and such institutions not being referred to. It is a handsome red brick building standing in its own pleasant grounds, with three wings at the back and very large verandas at each end projecting to the front. The hospital is four storeys high, each storey being devoted to a special purpose—namely, (a) the ground floor for accouchements; (b) the first floor for operations and the special diseases of females; (c) the second floor for other diseases; and (d) the third floor for the nurses. Outside is a

small laundry with three women at work. Nothing strikes a visitor to the hospital more than its lightness, brightness, and the excessive "modernity" of all its arrangements. The immense corridor at the back connecting the wings and the main building is a special feature. All the sick-rooms open into this. These are either single rooms, double, or small dormitories holding four or five persons. In every room there are electric light, a fixed basin supplied with hot and cold water, and heating apparatus. All the beds are white enamelled. All that is absolutely necessary for a bedroom is there, and it is astonishing how much can be dispensed with, including carpets and hangings. The floors are highly polished. When it is advisable to take a patient into the open air, wheels are fixed to the bed, which, together with the patient, can be wheeled by a child on to the veranda. In all, the hospital usually accommodates about 140 persons, including 60 sick, 25 infants, 35 nurses, 10 of the medical and house staff, and 10 domestics.

The hospital is a paying hospital. In all the building there is only one free bed and it is a baby's. All other patients must pay. In the private division a patient in a single room pays from 8 to 10 francs daily and in a double room from 6 to 7 francs; in the public division prices range from 2 to 4 francs. The average cost for each patient in the hospital is 4 francs 20 centimes, or 5 francs 15 centimes if the interest on the building is reckoned. The *Frauenverein* is poor, but it led off with the comparatively handsome subscription of 5,000 francs. The canton and city of Zürich gave 50,000 francs. 1,300 ladies have been persuaded to become members of the *Stiftung Schweizerische Pflegerinnenschule*, to pay a yearly subscription of at least 3 francs and more generally 5 francs, which yields 11,000 francs per annum. Generally the women are most enthusiastic for the hospital, and so far the subscriptions have been regularly paid. The ladies gave besides these annual subscriptions a sum of 150,000 francs. They held a great bazaar in November, 1899, and raised 50,000 francs. Besides, the Committee obtained a loan of 300,000 francs from private persons, paying only 3 per cent. interest. One lady advanced 125,000 francs of this sum. The hospital is now well known in the north of Switzerland and begins to be appreciated in Berne and Geneva. On the occasion of my visit there were two English ladies among the patients who spoke gratefully of the care and skill expended on them. As some of the nurses usually speak English there exists no difficulty on the score of language.

The infants' department in the hospital affords experience to the nurses until the children are eight months old, or even more in special cases. The nursery is admirably fitted, and for a large part of the day the babies stay out in the garden. I

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