

patients. Built with its frontage towards Brunswick Square instead of Havil Street as formerly, it has a pleasant outlook over green trees, between the blocks of wards are lawns of well laid turf, and every ward has a wide and pleasant balcony overlooking the Square. Not only convalescents, but also patients in their beds, can be moved on to these verandas, and so have the benefit of the fresh air and sunshine which play so important a part in modern treatment. Nor is this all, for three of the blocks have flat roofs, on which it is hoped that practically open-air treatment can be given. Here are small wards containing six beds, into which patients can be wheeled at night; but already there are rumours of tents on the roofs, so it is possible that the majority of the roof patients will live entirely in the open air. It must also be noted that in each block there is an additional outside staircase for use in case of fire. In the administrative block are the offices of the various officials, including the Chaplain, a fine board-room, the residential quarters of the Matron and medical staff and also of thirteen Sisters. The Nurses' Home is quite charming; one feels that the lines of the modern nurse have fallen in pleasant places, and that her work, done under conditions so much less strenuous than that of her predecessors, should be of the finest. Does the average probationer, one sometimes wonders, appreciate all that she gets when training? She certainly could not provide herself with the house-room, service, and board which she now usually receives for less than £2 2s. a week. In addition to this she is given uniform, a washing allowance, and a salary, and beyond this, again, an education which will qualify her for a remunerative profession. At Camberwell the nurses have not only sitting and dining rooms, but a library, a study, and a lecture room of fine proportions. The furniture is of excellent design, and chintzes and curtains are of harmonious colouring, so that the general effect will be pleasing. Much careful thought is also in evidence in the furniture of the bedrooms, where everything is good and plain; cupboard tops are flush with their cornices; legs of washstands and chairs are straight, and have no ledges where dust can lurk. Against these the Matron, Miss Marquardt, resolutely sets her face as adding needlessly to the work, but every room is comfortably furnished and should prove a haven of rest to its occupant. All the rooms are heated by hot-water pipes which can be regulated at the discretion of the nurse concerned. The bath-rooms are also similarly heated, and are provided in the proportion of one to every ten nurses.

The nurses, throughout their three years' training, receive a continuous course of lectures from the Medical Superintendent and the Matron, and have a post-graduate course of sick-room cookery, when the lectures are given by a teacher from the London

County Council. The certificate awarded to successful candidates is given by the Guardians and signed by the lecturer.

The wards are bright and cheerful. Each contains twenty-four beds (of the Lawson Tait pattern); the lockers, besides their primary purpose, are designed to serve as chairs as well as bed-tables. The top lights of the windows are filled with opaque green glass, thus preventing the trying glare from an unshaded top light. In each ward basins are fixed, and hot and cold water are laid on so that they are readily available for the frequent washing of hands of both the medical and nursing staffs, which is so essential a part of modern methods. The furniture is on the most approved principles—no unnecessary show, but solid and good, calculated to stand hard wear, as it should be. The white and red quilts and the red screens give the touch of colour and brightness which the sick love.

It is now realised that besides the ward proper various accessory offices are necessary, so there is a larder, a linen cupboard, a kitchen, a bath-room (with hot pipes for drying towels) provided in connection with each ward, and in the lavatories is an arrangement whereby bed-pans are warmed. Outside each ward also is a smaller one containing four beds, and one for a single case. That the care of the linen is no sinecure will be realised when it is mentioned that in connection with the new Infirmary some 27,000 articles have been made and marked under the supervision of the Matron.

The children's block contains ninety-six beds and cots. Here the wards are smaller, not more than six beds in a ward, so that an infectious case can be the more readily isolated.

The operating theatre is designed on the most modern and approved lines—no ledges, no corners where dust can lurk unseen. Instruments and dressings are kept in an adjoining room, fitted with cupboards and drawers for the purpose. There is also an anæsthetic room, a laboratory, and other offices in this block.

Most interesting is the laundry, for staff and patients, completely equipped, and the most costly part of the building. The kitchens, with everything on a colossal scale, are also a sight.

The mortuary besides the *post-mortem* room contains a waiting-room for the friends, and the mortuary proper is so arranged that mourners see only the body of their own relative.

The disinfecting arrangements are thoroughly organised. The clothes of patients are fetched from the wards within forty minutes of admission, and are then stoved, after which they are stored on racks specially devoted to the purpose, a list of everything being filed in each case.

Lastly, mention must be made of the ambulance, which keeps its own special nurse employed, and whose horses are housed in a stable which many humans would be glad to own as a home.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)