

The Hospital World.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

One of the most important meetings of the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital in recent times will be that which has been called to consider the report of the Lord Mayor's Committee on the requirements of the hospital. We are indebted to the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* for the details of this report, which, as regards the new buildings, runs as follows:—

“Three sets of plans were prepared by the architects, showing alternative schemes, all involving the removal of the church. The first provided for the demolition of all the present buildings with the exception of the Medical School block, and the erection of an entirely new hospital. The second plan proposed to leave standing, in addition to the School block, the east, south, and west wings of the present quadrangle, and to erect on the remaining area the new buildings required. On the third plan all four of the wings of the present quadrangle are left standing. . . . The Buildings Sub-Committee unanimously came to the conclusion that the plan last referred to, which involves the retention of the quadrangle, is to be preferred. That plan provides for new buildings as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
New out-patient department, dispensary, surgery ward (ten beds), hospital kitchens, &c. . . . .	96,060	0	0
Operating theatres on top of north wing	19,400	0	0
Nurses' Home, &c. . . . .	84,500	0	0
New pavilion wards (sixty-eight beds) and chapel . . . . .	22,940	0	0
Isolation pavilion (70 beds) . . . . .	28,420	0	0
Pathological department, mortuary, &c.	13,170	0	0
Quarters for resident staff and other officials . . . . .	16,850	0	0
Heating and ventilating apparatus . . . . .	10,100	0	0
Subways . . . . .	10,350	0	0
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>£327,690</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

To which must be added the cost of alterations in the east, west, and south wings, comprising the wards of the hospital, if it should be decided to remove them.

“It should be noted that the beds to be provided in the new pavilions will not be an addition to the total number of beds in the hospital. They will but replace the beds lost by the pulling down of the present surgery wing, and by the ultimate reduction of the number of beds in the east, west, and south wings, should these wings be remodelled internally.”

The final words of the report are—

“That a new out-patient department, being of urgent importance and necessity, should be proceeded with at once.”

“Such, then,” says our contemporary, “are the opinions of the Committee, and a brief explanation is all that is needed to place the matter more clearly before our readers.

“In the first place, the new land purchased from Christ's Hospital may be said to consist of two irregularly-shaped triangular portions united by a narrow neck. One of these triangles lies behind the present chemical department and dissecting room, and has a large frontage into Giltspur Street. The other triangle includes the frontage on to King Edward Street, where the Blue-coat School railings stand opposite the Post Office, and as it runs back it takes in the houses which are seen at the back of Stanley block (south wing), so that the two triangular portions of land mentioned above unite just behind the *post-mortem* room.

“It appears to be practically decided that the new ‘out-patient block’ shall be erected on the first-named of these portions, so that it will be entered from Giltspur Street, where it will have a frontage of about 130 ft. in length, and will extend back for another 280 ft. There will be more than ample room here for a most spacious surgery, and large and commodious rooms have been planned for the medical and surgical casualty cases, for the performance of small operations, and for consultations. Here also will be provided new medical and surgical out-patient departments, as well as specially built and equipped rooms for the eye, ear, throat, orthopedic, skin, dental, and electrical departments, which will all be accommodated on a scale which may challenge comparison with similar departments of any other hospital in the kingdom.

“It is further expected that large and comfortable quarters for the resident staff will be provided in this block on the Giltspur Street frontage, so that the house surgeons and physicians will be placed most conveniently near to the surgery, and will also obtain a ready admission to the main square by passing across the entrance hall of the present library, through a new door placed near to where the School Registrar at present works. Enough has been said to show the importance of this new block; but it must also be pointed out that, as all the land which it will cover is outside the old hospital boundary, the whole of this building will be erected without disturbing the work of either hospital or school, and this is a matter for much congratulation.

“It will be gathered from what has been said that after the new block for out-patients has been erected the present surgery, out-patient rooms, and dispensary will be pulled down, and it is also intended to pull down ultimately the whole of the present college and residents' quarters, as well as Abernethy block and the church. This will, of course, provide a great space, especially when the ground covered by the Matron's house and the Nurses' Home is also cleared and added to the remainder of the newly-purchased land; but the space will be none too large for the numerous new ward blocks, nurses' home, laboratories, &c., detailed above.”

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