

continuously, and their faces and demeanour show nothing but kindness and gentle goodness.

This is the hospital with such an exquisite kitchen, and the whole big place was immaculately clean—bathrooms, beautifully tiled, cubby-holes, and corners were all shown. The hospital has sun-rooms, X-ray and Röntgen-ray rooms, and departments for all branches, including children (in a separate hospital), and obstetrics. The latter department is, I believe, the one in which changes are most needed in many foreign hospitals, as the Sisters do not personally supervise the work, which is left to attendants of an inferior grade.

The canton hospital at Berne, Switzerland, is a very beautiful one. It is quite new, and built on the isolated pavilion plan in beautiful grounds a little way out of the city of Berne, with the kitchen building in the middle of the grounds just behind the administration.

The pavilions, while similar externally, vary in their details of plan, and are very attractive, with a modern finish of lightness and brightness. In several, the long wide corridor, completely closed in with glass sides, where the patients could walk or ride in wheel-chairs, was a special feature, and a pretty touch of colour was given by the bed-linen in the wards. Instead of being made up in white, as usual, the pillow-cases and bedspreads were all of a clear blue-and-white plaid gingham, fresh and well laundered, and with good hardwood floors and funny little yellow boxes of Swiss beds, it really looked prettier than white.

I would have liked to see more of this hospital than I could. The deaconesses who nursed it had every appearance of being overworked, and I had not the heart to detain one of them long enough to satisfy my interest. I should say that they did thorough and careful nursing, and did it all themselves. I noticed in the children's ward the exquisite cleanliness of finger-nails and small details which mark careful work. Then, too, in this hospital I believe a more elaborate surgical technique is practised than in almost any other Swiss hospital, and doctors' orders are heavy and exacting. Medical science and nursing art both are high, and I would advise visitors to see the canton hospital of Berne without fail.

A similar hospital at Geneva was not so modern in construction nor so good in detail, though larger. It is built in the heavy, three-storey style, with wards and corridors all opening into each other, and what struck me as being very odd was to be shown a diphtheria ward and a scarlet-fever ward opening right out of the general corridor—quite at one end, to be sure, but still connecting with the whole hospital. The diphtheria room, containing eight beds and three convalescents, had an excellent apparatus for making steam spray. It was a nickel-plated machine over gas-jets, having a reservoir for water and a regulator to control and record the pressure. It was fitted with long arms of nickel tubing which extended over the beds, and could produce enough steam for six patients. I was told that the Swiss physicians are very strict and punctilious in the use of antitoxin at an early stage, so that diphtheria is minimised and there is no pressure on the hospital. There were deaconesses also in this hospital, and, I am sorry to say, they also seemed overworked, though not as much so as at Berne. The pillows and spreads in this hospital were pink and white check.

A wonderful hospital to burst on one's vision is the Ospedale Civile in Venice, containing 1,300 beds and occupying the superbly beautiful old buildings which were for 400 years a monastery, and for 100 past have been adapted as a hospital. But this letter is too long already, and I shall have to describe it next time.

L. L. DOCK.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE KING'S GENEROSITY.—At the annual court of the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate, held recently, at 13, Charing Cross, S.W., it was stated that one of the patients during the year was a child from the Sandringham estate. In connection with this case the King gave twenty guineas to the hospital, and thus qualified as a life member.

DUCHESS OF ALBANY TO OPEN A NEW HOSPITAL.—The Duchess of Albany has consented to visit Walton-on-Thames on April 30th to lay the foundation stone of the Walton, Hershams, and Oatlands Cottage Hospital, which is being erected to commemorate the King's Accession.

PAYING PATIENTS.—The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales have made an order establishing the scheme for the future regulation of St. Thomas's Hospital so far as regards the accommodation for paying patients. The Governors of the hospital may, during their pleasure, set apart for the admission, maintenance, and treatment of not more than forty patients two floors in the building intended to be used primarily as a home for nurses which is in course of erection within the precincts of the hospital. The payments of such patients are to be at a daily rate of not less than 8s., to the general income of the hospital, while the number of patients and the minimum rate of payment to be made by them may be varied from time to time by the Governors with the sanction of the Charity Commissioners. The Governors are empowered to make such rules and regulations for the admission, treatment, and discharge of the patients as they think fit.

THE HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND.—The thirtieth annual report of the Hospital Saturday Fund states that the income for 1903 was the highest on record. It amounted to £23,674, a sum £710 in excess of that raised in 1902, and £3,536 more than the amount collected in 1897, when the last annual street collection was made. The increased activity and improved methods of the local committees are commended. The Premises Fund was reduced by £400. The debt remaining is £2,034, and it is hoped that some well-wisher of the Fund may relieve the management expenses of this charge. Notwithstanding the increased official work of the Fund, the management expenses have been slightly reduced. Special attention is drawn to the work of the representative committee formed to provide sanatorium accommodation for workers suffering from tuberculosis. The sum of £21,183 was distributed last January among 195 institutions.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)