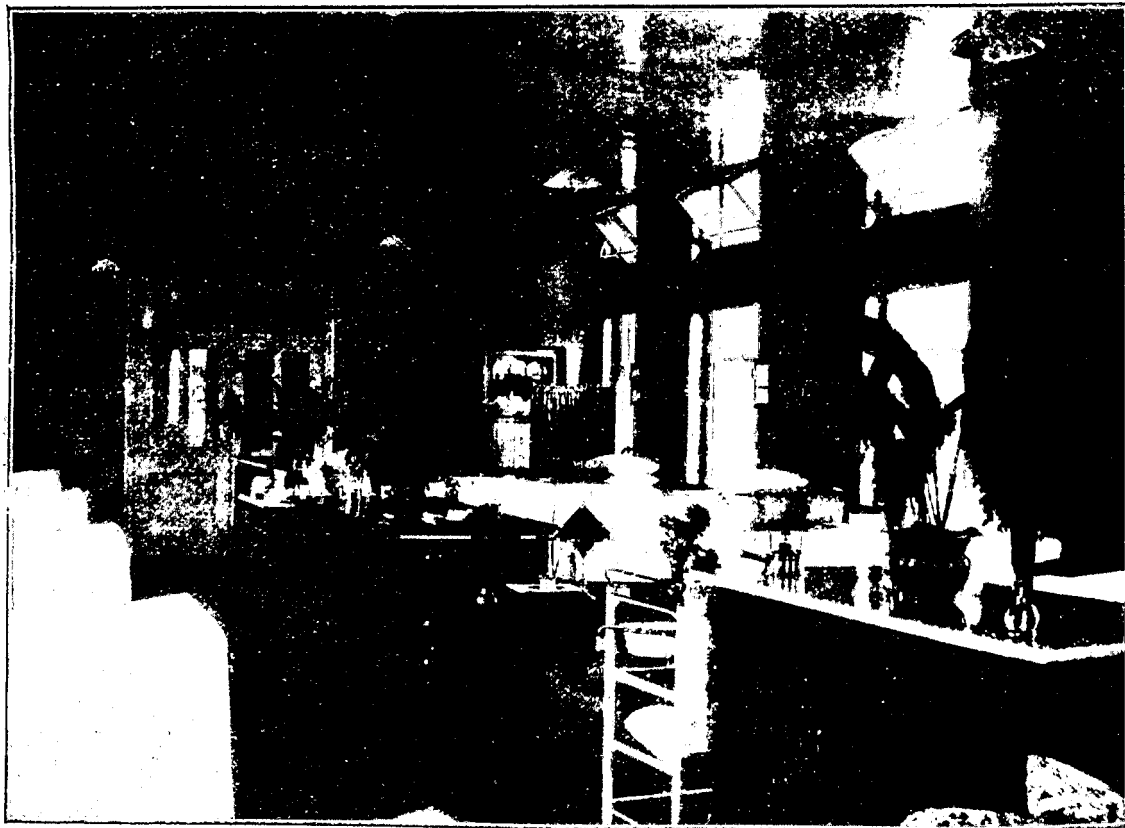


bright golden brown like old Madeira, and which was far too exquisite for use. The domestic offices prove that beauty can be combined with usefulness (indeed, do not the dainty Dutch kitchens teach us this lesson); the Sparkhill kitchen is all white—walls, woodwork, ceilings, relieved by the red tiling of the floor, and polished steel appliances; beyond the fine kitchen are innumerable additions for the keeping of food, and storing linen, and other things conducive to our material well-being. The wards are, of course, built on the pavilion plan, and are reached from the administrative block, down a very wide, light corridor, enamelled white; from the corridor various rooms branch

dainties, such as fruits, &c., are kept for the patients on numbered, partitioned shelves. Indeed, every detail in the arrangement of the ward annexes appears to have received the consideration of an expert in domestic economy.

The larger wards contain ten free beds, each is bright, airy, well furnished, and convenient; floors polished, freely ventilated, and lighted by electricity; the bedsteads and bedding are of the best quality, and the gift of the maker. Here, also, are glass, metal-mounted lockers and all the up-to-date appliances, dressing wagons and sterilisers. I noted an exceedingly ingenious electric lamp for night use, so constructed with coloured chimney and shade that a



FREE WARD: HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, SPARKHILL.

off. One door marked "Mackintosh" leads into a cosy place arranged for cleansing, drying, and keeping creaseless, on out-jutting metal rails, these expensive sheets of pure rubber. A second room contains high metal racks, on which are packed spare mattresses, one above the other, with air space between, and the spare pillows are kept in the same hygienic manner. Then there is a room all fitted with hanging apparatus, well curtained, for the careful keeping of the patients' clothes, and a pretty wee kitchen, where the few

maximum of light can be cast on nurse's book or work without further reflection. This lamp was specially made by the Birmingham Guild of Handicrafts, and might well be in general use.

Paying patients are admitted to the small one-bedded wards. This is a very great boon to that middle class able and anxious to pay towards the expenses of their nursing, and benefits honourable, laborious, and self-respecting people, who, so far, have received but scant consideration from those interested in the care of the sick, a self-supporting

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