

The Hospital World.

THE NORTH DEVON INFIRMARY, BARNSTAPLE.

"That the housekeeper's room be furnished with a round deal table, two deal forms, and four common chairs." The above is a resolution of the Committee of the North Devon Infirmary in 1826, when the porter's wife was appointed housekeeper. Eighty years have passed, and in this twentieth century of personal comfort the Matron's room has a wide cushioned window seat, a carved oak writing

was on milk diet for seven weeks of the time, and found scrubbing made her very tired!

Passes were given to the patients, and they were allowed to go out for so many hours on presenting these at the porter's gate.

In the fine old kitchen you can see a large stone with the remains of a ring. This was over the well from which all the water was drawn. Waterpipes were laid in 1859. To-day neither the bathing accommodation nor the water supply is satisfactory. There is one bath for sixty-eight patients, and not always



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table, and some beautiful bits of Chippendale furniture.

There is much that is interesting in an old hospital in the country, for the patients in many cases are the children and grandchildren of former inmates, and tell of how, forty years ago and more, all the rough work was performed by patients—convalescents if there were any, and if not the sick. Only last week a woman told of how, when she was an in-patient thirty-five years ago, with a gastric ulcer, her allotted task was to scrub out the ward after the doctor had paid his visit. She

water enough. When the local plumber was asked why the infirmary was so frequently short of water he replied that "nothing else could be expected if the nurses were allowed a daily bath!"

Miss Lillie, the present Matron, was appointed in April, 1904. She is the first Matron who is a trained nurse, and until her appointment the nursing staff was under the control of the House Surgeon, who also shared in the domestic management.

The work at the infirmary is good; emergency cases are brought in from all parts of

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