

## The Hospital World.

### THE BELGRAVE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

The Belgrave Hospital for Children, of which the Babies' Ward was opened on Friday last by Princess Henry of Battenberg, is a very dear little hospital in Clapham Road, and much needed in this populous district on the other side the river. The demand on the thirty-eight beds, indeed, is very great, for many hospitals do not admit infants under two, except in exceptional cases, while here the majority of the patients are of or under that age. The hall, which forms a handsome entrance to the hospital, is lined with black and white marble, both the floor and walls being of this costly material; the arched ceiling over is of small blue tiles. The gallery which runs round the square inner hall, and is reached by a solid teak staircase, is supported on marble pillars. The Babies' Ward is charming, the walls are tiled with cream-coloured tiles, with a border of brown tiles, toning in with the polished floor. They are decorated with pictures of nursery rhymes in coloured tiles, an ideal form of picture for hospital wards. The swing cots, eight of them, are already full, and indeed, were the money forthcoming, many more such cots could be filled were they added. The curtains of the cots are bright pink in colour, and very snug and cosy all the babies are, although the pink glow seems to darken the complexion of one poor mite, blue with congenital heart disease.

In the medical and surgical wards the children look happy and well cared for. The Matron, Miss Barwell, who is evidently a child lover, knows each of them individually, and what each is suffering from. A good arrangement is that by which each child's towel and washing flannel is numbered, and hung not behind a locker, but on a hook in the lavatory, where they are speedily dried by the hot pipes.

The operating theatre is fitted with every convenience, the whole of the fittings being a gift of Mr. Clinton Dent, F.R.C.S.

The resident officers are medical women, an arrangement which seems to be appreciated by the Matron.

In the out-patient department the presence of many patients testifies to its usefulness and need.

The hospital affords an admirable training ground for those who wish to become proficient in the nursing of sick children. The training period is for two years, and the conditions under which the nurses work are pleasant.

Sir George White has announced that £38,132 of the £50,000, for which he appealed to clear off the building debt of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, has been subscribed. This is a splendid result.

The Kent and Canterbury Hospital has just undergone thorough restoration and partial rebuilding at a cost of £13,000. In the old floor of the operating theatre, now removed, were the rings through which were passed the cords for securing patients during operations before the discovery and introduction of anæsthetics.

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



At a meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board on Saturday the Ambulance Committee presented a report, which was adopted, favouring the use of motor-propelled ambulances and omnibuses for the transport of patients. The patients were in the vehicles much shorter times, and consequently suffered far less fatigue than in horse-drawn vehicles, and as much more work could be performed in a day by motors than by horses, the committee believed that the general adoption of motor traction would result in considerable economy. The committee recommended the provision of a motor workshop at the south-western ambulance station.

St. Mary's Hospital has received a donation of £500 from "M. W." towards the sum required to enable the Clarence Wing to be furnished and opened for patients.

Mr. W. H. P. Jackson, the Canadian who gave up a prosperous career to devote his life to work among lepers in India, sends a touching note to the Leper Mission of his arrival:—

"I arrived in Chandkuri on Sunday morning, November 26th. Just as we entered the village we were met by the Leper Asylum band. These poor fellows, with their simple means of making music, were a pathetic sight. Over the road the word 'Welcome' appeared in the form of an arch. The bungalow had been decorated, and the untainted children of the lepers, to the number of about 100, had assembled, all neatly dressed, the girls especially looking quite picturesque. The tainted children from the asylum were also there. The boys and girls sang hymns in Hindi, and many salaams were given to the new sahib."

The Mission to Lepers has secured in gifts and promises £825 towards the £1,000 required for the new Asylum for the Lepers of Poona (Bombay Presidency). A further sum of £175 would enable the Mission to claim the grant promised by the authorities and to make proper provision for the many homeless outcasts of the district. Contributions are received by Mr. John Jackson, the Mission to Lepers, Exeter Hall.

Accidents are so frequent on the great American railroads that the various managements are now thinking of attaching hospital cars to the long-distance trains.

On the Long Island Railroad there is now a complete emergency hospital on wheels. In the principal "ward" are twenty cots ready for use, with folded cots in reserve. A tiny operating-room, 10 ft. square, occupies one end of the car; and there is a gas-heating boiler, a cold water tank, and cupboards filled with surgical supplies and instruments, as well as cabinets full of drugs and chemicals.

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