

The Hospital World.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL, BRIGHTON.

When the tender-hearted lay journalist puts pen to paper with the laudable intention of arousing public interest in our hospitals, he usually takes a very gloomy view of the situation, and tells a dolorous tale. Darkened chambers, and moans and groans play their time-honoured part in his hospital world, and one wonders why in these enlightened days the shades of Dickens should be invoked.

At least this query presented itself to my mind when I recently paid a visit to the bright and breezily situated Sussex County Hospital, at Brighton, and awaited the Matron in her sanctum on the first floor. A beautiful little room, all pale green and white, with tender grey poppies airily blooming, and books and old china everywhere. Seated in the cosy window seat—a veritable sun trap—one caught a glimpse of the sea, very blue, through the golden light, and as the superbly invigorating air swept in through the open window, one wished for five minutes *tête-à-tête* with that emotional scribbler, so that he might be invited to divest himself of preconceived and doleful theories of hospital life.

Anyway, Miss Katherine Scott has had no experience of the depressing environment he depicts, as most of her hospital days have been happily spent at the Sussex County Hospital. Here she came as a probationer in 1888, was trained and certificated, and after experience as Matron of the Hove Hos-

pital, was elected Matron of her Alma Mater in 1896, and for eleven years she has presided with eminent success over its Nursing School.

During that period the Hospital has been remodelled and modernised, the Nursing Home built, the School and Private Nursing Institution greatly extended, and every department brought up to date.

I remember the hospital a quarter of a century ago, in prehistoric times, and it was a great pleasure, accompanied by Miss Scott, to note its growth and the wonderful improvements effected. The most notable and recent improvement is the completion of the alterations to "Grant" block, built in commemoration of the late Queen's Jubilee, in order to adapt it to the special use of cases of diseases of women, the equipment of which cannot fail to commend itself on the ground of sanitation and comfort.

The wards, which are beautifully light and airy, have been most delicately decorated in harmonious tones of green, and nothing has been permitted to clash—the pale green walls, blinds, and screen covers match exactly. The large doors made of American oak are very cunning; they open down the centre, and clip noise-

lessly when swung back, and can be reunited again in the same noiseless manner. The ward furniture is admirably useful—simple as it should be, so as not to harbour dust. The dressing tables are all marble-topped. The bed linen fine and white, with bed quilts to correspond, made of an unusually light marcella, a material which should be



MISS KATHERINE SCOTT,
Matron of the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

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