

### The Sick Rooms at Eton College.

I think very few of our readers know how the sick boys at our greatest public school are nursed. Dormitories are unknown at Eton; every boy has his own room. Until quite recently the boys were nursed in their rooms when they were ill, except in cases of scarlet fever, and then they were sent to the Sanatorium.

The Sanatorium was only used for scarlet fever until a few months ago, when it was reorganised and rearranged, so as to take in any cases. This is a great improvement at Eton, as the Sanatorium is a delightful place, quite out in the country, in its own spacious grounds. However, my article is to be a description of the sick rooms at Eton, but I hope to be allowed to write about the Sanatorium some other time.

Most houses now at Eton have their sick-rooms built and designed on the most up-to-date hygienic principles. One of the most frequent illnesses there is pneumonia, and it will readily be seen that such cases cannot possibly be properly nursed in a small bed sitting-room, and there is always a risk in moving them to the Sanatorium, so now they are at once removed into the sick rooms attached to the house; which are bright and airy, and where everything is at hand for nursing. The particular set of sick rooms I am thinking of consists of three rooms, with bath-room, lavatory, etc., divided from the rest of the building by a baize door at the end of one of the corridors, well removed from the other rooms occupied by the boys. These rooms have as their outlook a delightful old garden.

The rooms have their walls distempered in white, and the woodwork is all painted white, all the corners are rounded, and the doors are made in one solid slab of wood with a brass knob, and they open and shut quite noiselessly. There are no crevices to attract dust. The furniture is painted white with brass handles, and consists of a chest of drawers with a looking glass, which does duty as a dressing table, a wash-stand, also white with a marble top, and the china is white. The bed is painted white, and is on rubber castors, and in one room there is a fixture to the bed for applying a pulley. Then there is an invalid couch upholstered in leather, like the couches one sees in hospital wards, an easy chair in bent wood and cane, and an adjustable bed-table. One of these rooms is rather larger than the others, and this could easily be turned into an emergency operating room. It

has in it, besides the furniture I have described, a very nice glass case for dressings on indiarubber castors, so that it can easily be wheeled around. The floors are of stained parquet wood, with an inlaid narrow black border, and they are beautifully polished. Each room has two rugs on the floor, a pretty art-shade of blue in colour. There are, of course, no curtains or hangings of any kind, the beds are covered with white counterpanes, and there are white linen toilet covers on the dressing-tables. They have open firegrates with terra-cotta tiles.

Outside these rooms there is a large cupboard which contains everything necessary for nursing, such as bed-pans, urinals, measures, feeding-cups, spitting-cups, inhalers, etc., also dressing-bowls. There is also a steam kettle. The Collegers who live in the old College foundation and who number 70 in all, are very fortunate, as they have had very nicely appointed sick-rooms for some years; they have a fully trained lady as Matron in College.

There is really very little sickness at Eton; considering that there are between 1,100 and 1,200 boys, and it is a curious fact that nearly all serious illnesses are contracted away from Eton, as the outbreaks nearly always occur directly after the holidays or long leave in the middle of the term. Apart from the healthy, open-air life the boys lead, and the careful study of all sanitary matters in the houses and College, this can mainly be attributed to the ever watchful care taken of the health of the boys; the quick detection of any symptom of illness, and the modern sick-rooms.

G. T.

### The International Nursing Library.

The Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton is now closed, and the Committee have decided to hand over the surplus funds after the closing and auditing of the accounts, to the Registered Nurses' Society as a nucleus of a convalescent fund for the members.

The beautiful inlaid bookcase, given by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick when she furnished the Drawing Rooms at the Home, has been transferred to the Board Room of the R.N.S. as the depository of the Library of the International Council of Nurses, a worthy casket in which to enshrine the History of our Profession as presented in the professional literature of the time.

The care of this library should be the special province of some book loving nurse.

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