

tism of the Eunuch by Philip, and Christ Healing the Man at the Pool of Bethesda.

The organ was bought by public subscription, and, contrary to the usual custom, occupies a place just inside the entrance. The chapel has a seating capacity for 150 people, and the chaplaincy is unattached, the stipend being £200 per annum. The Architect at the opening of the original building presented a chalice, beautiful in its elegant form and simple design; this is now no longer used, being replaced by a more ornate one.

In excavating for the new building a splendidly preserved piece of Roman pavement, with the double Greek key pattern, was found 13 feet 6 inches below the present level of the road; this is most carefully preserved.

Many devices there are for assisting the Bath waters in their beneficent work, such as walking machines and some curious spring seats covered with horsehair and fastened with brass nails. In the early days the patients were conveyed to the baths in sedan chairs, one of which still adorns a corner of the hall, and, dare I write it, looks not unlike one of the ward coal boxes of my training days, painted black as it is, and adorned with a shutter. Now the mineral water baths of every kind are given in the building. It is somewhat curious to enter hospital wards and find empty beds, so contrary to all one's preconceived ideas, but Miss Griffith's theory is that in these gouty and rheumatic complaints bed kills more than it cures, so unless patients are suffering from some acute disease they are got up and dressed every day, when they adjourn to the spacious day rooms. These rooms have spaces partitioned off, a space for each ward; here the patients sew, read, talk, or play games as the fancy takes them; the men's day room, or as it is called, the Brymer Ward, after the late Archdeacon Brymer, who contributed £1,000 to the general fund, is a magnificent room 85 feet long by 25 wide and 22 high, and indeed it was difficult to realise that the men so intent upon their games of bagatelle and other amusements were really in hospital under treatment. This ward is under the charge of a ward master, who is responsible for the good behaviour of all those in his charge. These ward masters are selected from retired Army men, and the discipline they exercise is excellent. The wards are simply fitted up. Very noticeable in the lavatories is the appeal to vanity in the form of most excellent mirrors, so different to those one so often sees, which if they do not actually distort the features are not conducive to vain glory.

One ward has a brass plate recording the

fact that "Four shares in the Bath Assembly Rooms were bequeathed to this Hospital by Lord Rokeby on condition that two patients be maintained and distinguished by a badge." These badges are large brass discs, with the patients' number, which used to be sewn upon the coat or cloak so that they might easily be recognised when in the street; these are no longer needed as the patients do not take their airings in the public streets.

Most fascinating is it to sit in Miss Griffith's charming sitting room, surrounded by the relics of former days, listening to her interesting and amusing accounts of some of the clauses from the many Acts of Parliament. The House Surgeon has the right to arrest beggars at sight, but I fear he no longer exercises this privilege. Again, any patient coming not properly recommended is liable to be arrested as a vagabond; one can well understand the necessity for this clause when one realises that ever since the foundation of the hospital its doors have been open to patients from all parts of the Kingdom, but nowadays forms are issued, and all applications are scrutinised by the Medical Board and Committee before applicants are allowed to come.

Any alterations in the bye-laws must pass the Annual Court, the Bishop of the Diocese, and the two Judges of Assize for the County of Somerset; it is not at all surprising that with such regulations as these things move slowly, but happily the meshes are not inflexible even in Acts of Parliament, and many improvements have been made during the reign of Miss Griffith, the capable Matron.

MARY BURR.

Legal Matters.

COCHRANE *versus* MICHAEL.

Last week we reported the case of Cochrane *versus* Michael, in which a maternity nurse was awarded her full fee in a case of breach of contract. The Judge reserved judgment on the question of costs for fourteen days in order to see if the defendant appealed. We learn that the defendant will not appeal. The point at issue was whether the engagement of a maternity nurse for a certain date made the patient liable to pay her fees whether her services were required or not.

The decision in this case is conclusive. If a patient makes a contract with a nurse in writing, she can claim her fees if her services are subsequently dispensed with. Happily for her, the plaintiff was able to produce in court letters proving that she had refused two other cases in consequence of her contract with the defendant.

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