

The Hospital World.

NEW WARDS AT THE LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL.

Four new general wards for women patients and four private wards, were opened at the London Fever Hospital, Liverpool Road, on Monday afternoon last, by Lady Balfour of Burleigh, who performed the ceremony with a key of beautiful design, presented by the architect as a memento of the occasion. It was carried out in oxidised silver, and bore Lord Balfour of Burleigh's coat of arms; surmounted by a coronet. The new wards are charming. The reconstructed block is in the shape of the letter L, which thus allows for two long wards of 16 beds each, and two shorter wards used for convalescents. The washable walls are painted and coloured in soft shades of green, and the floors are of teak. There is every modern convenience in the shape of basins with hot and cold water laid on, and sterilisers, while linen cupboards opening into the wards, with well stocked shelves, the contents of which are kept aired by hot pipes, are luxuries undreamed of in days gone by. The kitchens, placed between the two wards, and serving both, are delightful, and a simple, but effective, plate rack in enamelled iron was noteworthy. Here as well as on the corridors and stairs, the floors are covered with terrano, a material of a warm red in colour, which has a close, compact surface.

The artificial lighting of the wards was worthy of note. Above the ordinary lights was a duplicate set for night use; the thick green shades of these were set upwards, thus completely shading the light, while affording enough for the night nurse to observe the patients by.

The nursing arrangements in the wards, under the direction of the Matron, Miss Edith Gregory, ably seconded by the Sisters, are evidently of a high order, showing that attention to detail and nicety, which marks the difference between a good and a careless nurse. By the bedsides were set out various appliances, which are used when the beds are occupied; for instance, on a white enamel tray on one locker was arranged everything necessary for the syringing of ears and nose, and the specially shaped mackintosh used for covering the patient while these processes are carried out was of excellent design.

The arrangements for giving a hot air bath by means of electric lamps of 8, 16, and 32 candle power respectively, which are attached to a cradle and protected by wire guards, attracted considerable attention. The patient as usual is placed between blankets, and then

all the lights are at first turned on till the degree of heat ordered by the medical attendant is reached. This is usually from 110 degs. to 120 degs. Fahr. This temperature, as tested by a thermometer hung on the cradle, is maintained for about half an hour as a rule, and then the lamps are extinguished at intervals, so that the patient gradually cools down. Sometimes a lesser degree of heat is ordered and the patient kept for days in this atmosphere.

Another very noticeable point was the way in which tables for convalescents, bed tables, and lockers were laid for meals, with a care which should provoke an appetite.

A feature of this hospital is that all the patients pay something, the charge to those in the general wards being £3 3s. to cover the cost of their entire stay, while in the private wards they pay £3 3s. a week. Excellent value they get for their money. The wards are ideally spacious and most comfortably furnished. The best of medical and nursing attendance is provided, the patients' washing is done on the premises, and, to judge from the dainty trays set out for inspection, the most fastidious person could not fail to be satisfied with the way the food is served. Added to this, the private patients dine late, a most unusual indulgence in hospital.

After inspecting the wards, the visitors were entertained at tea, and had an opportunity of judging for themselves of the quality of the delicious cakes and other good things made on the premises by the cook. Both Miss Gregory and the Secretary, Major Christy, were indefatigable in looking after the guests, and the Home Sister—Sister Parnham—wearing the badge of a Serving Sister of St. John of Jerusalem, testifying to her 20 years of service in the institution, presided at the table, from which most excellent tea was dispensed.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh, President of the Hospital, then gave briefly a most interesting account of its history. Founded in 1801, when it was the only fever hospital in London, it originally stood on the site of King's Cross Station. When this was bought up, a field in Islington—Kettle Field—was secured as the site. Sir William Jenner was a student at the hospital, and the post mortem slab on which he worked is still in its possession. It was within its walls that the distinction was first made between typhus and typhoid fevers.

The hospital has in recent years been almost entirely rebuilt. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Lady Balfour of Burleigh, proposed by Sir Shirley Murphy, and seconded by Dr. Sidney Phillips.

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