

of fun over these races, and the Master and several of our august Matrons ran in them, and proved very agile. Amongst those present we noticed Dr. Dancer-Purefoy (past Master), Dr. Holmes (late Assistant Master), Miss Mac-Donnell, R.R.C., Matron Richmond Hospital, Miss Haughton, Matron Sir Patrick Dun's, Miss Kelly, Steevens' Hospital, Mrs. Kildare Treacy, Lady Manager City of Dublin Nurses' Institution, Mrs. Manning, and the Misses Towers, Dental Hospital, Miss Butler, Matron of Portobello Private Hospital, Miss Cherry, Secretary Irish Nurses' Association, Miss O'Brien, Housekeeper, Students' Residence, Rotunda Hospital, and many others.

The nurses' quarters were on view, and the separate bedrooms, sitting-rooms, and different arrangements for their comfort were much admired. Everything there has progressed with the times, and some of us who were trained there many years back, compared the past with the present. Long ago the sleeping arrangements were far from satisfactory. Instead of the dear little separate apartments, we had to be contented with curtained cubicles in a large dormitory.

This, which held 28 nurses, was situated over the Concert Hall of the Rotunda Public Rooms, and it did not conduce to sleep to have dances underneath. Once a poultry exhibition was held in this room, and I shall leave to imagination the various cacklings and cock-crows which took place from early morning. I don't think that even the statement that "the Hospital made £5 per night" consoled us much for the loss of sleep, but that is an old story now, and I am quite sure the then authorities made every arrangement for the nurses' comfort that was possible at the time. However, present day probationers at the Rotunda have as perfectly appointed quarters as in any hospital in the United Kingdom. As is well known, nurses come from every portion of the globe to train in the Rotunda Hospital, which is considered the first of importance as a lying-in hospital in Europe, and, I may say, in the world, as its diploma is thought the highest of amongst students as well as nurses. It was founded in 1745 by Dr. Bartholomew Mosse, and has carried on its mission of usefulness ever since, each Master and Matron adding to its reputation. A vote of thanks to Miss Ramsden the Master, students, and nurses was moved by Miss Kelly, Steevens' Hospital, and seconded by Miss Roberts. Three cheers were given for Miss Ramsden, and a very pleasant party was at an end.

The Hospital World.

THE ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL

An institution which is doing excellent work in a crowded neighbourhood is the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, in the City Road, E.C., formerly known, before its removal to its present site, as Moorfields Ophthalmic Hospital. Every bed is constantly in demand, and it is, therefore, very regrettable that a lack of funds has necessitated the serious consideration of retrenchment by the Committee, and if there is not improvement financially by the beginning of the year beds will have to be closed, a step which would be most disastrous for the poor whom the hospital serves.

The Matron, Miss Pollett, who, previous to her appointment to her present post, had done good work in a similar capacity at the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Maida Vale, W., was away when I called at the Hospital, but the Home Sister, who was representing her, most courteously took me over the building, and gave me all information. One's general impression was one of space, airiness, and sunshine—especially of sunshine—which flooded the building, modified and controlled in the wards where necessary, but still dominated the hospital in a way which must make for health and vigour.

All special hospitals have their interesting points. At the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital, except in the cataract ward, many of the beds were empty, but not unoccupied. Most of the patients are able to be up in the day time; and special day rooms are provided for their use, their meals being served there. Another indication of the nature of the cases nursed is to be found in the movable wooden barriers across the head of the staircase on each floor.

A Sister is in charge of each floor, and at night a Night Sister is on duty. There is a self-contained isolation ward and annexes at the top of the building, and, also at the top in a different direction, is the cheeriest of kitchens, surely from hygienic and other points of view a far more desirable plan than the usual one of placing the kitchen in the basement.

In the basement at the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital are roomy store cupboards, as well as the linenry which is the Home Sister's special care and pride, also a large outpatient department with rooms allotted to the different members of the medical staff well provided with lotions, instruments, dressings, and everything necessary for their use. There is also a refreshment bar, managed by an outside firm,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)