

## The Hospital World.

### THE NEW CHILDREN'S WARD AT THE GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, HOLLOWAY.

All was stir and excitement in the Holloway Road on Monday afternoon, and crowds lined the pavement, kept within due limits by scores of men in blue, mounted and unmounted, when the Princess of Wales visited the hospital to open the new ward for children.

Her Royal Highness was received by Sir John Dickson-Poynder, Bart., M.P. (Chairman of the Committee of Management), the Bishop of Islington, Alderman G. S. Elliott, Mayor, and the Reception Committee. The opening ceremony took place in the Islington Victoria Ward, where, on her arrival, a beautiful shower bouquet of pink carnations was presented to the Princess by Miss Joan Poynder.

Purses in aid of the Ward Fund were presented by friends of the hospital, and as many of them were tiny children this ceremony was a very pretty one. The contents amounted to £421 and a further list of £1,172 11s. 1d. in donations was read by the Secretary.

Her Royal Highness then said: "I have great pleasure in declaring the Children's Ward open," after which the Mayor of Islington expressed the hope that interest in the hospital would be so stimulated by the gracious presence of the Princess that they would soon be able to open another ward.

The new ward, which is at the top of the building, is charming. The offices, including the kitchen, linen closet, bath room, and sink room, are sensibly placed at the entrance of the ward. The sink room, from a nursing standpoint, is quite luxurious, with convenient slop sink, and slate shelves on which hot water bottles, basins, bedpans, and other necessary articles can be neatly and handily arranged.

The most striking feature of the large and airy ward is that it opens on to an asphalted flat roof, as large as the ward itself, approached through doors large enough to admit of a cot being easily wheeled out. Nothing could be better for the children than this easy access to the fresh air. The walls of the ward are painted with paripan paint, which has a highly glazed surface.

The little patients are already happily settled in their new quarters, and appeared to enjoy being made much of by the visitors. At the conclusion of the Opening Ceremony the Princess of Wales visited the Children's Ward as well as other wards in the hospital, and before she left tea was served in the sitting-room of the Matron, Miss A. M. Bird, the visitors being entertained to tea in the Islington Victoria Ward.

## The Passing Bell.

It is with the greatest sorrow that we record the death, at the Infirmary, Kingston Hill, Surrey, of the Matron, Miss J. A. Smith, which took place on Monday last.

Not only to her numerous personal friends, but in the nursing world, her loss is a grievous one. Miss Smith, who was trained at the Birmingham Infirmary, where she also held the positions of Ward Sister, and of Obstetric Sister, was an able administrator, and successfully organised the Nurse Training School at the Bradford Union Infirmary.

When she was appointed Superintendent Nurse at the Kingston Union Infirmary in 1900 she found no training school, but, owing to her energy a school was established at the beginning of 1902, when she received the title of Matron. The best proof of its success is the high standing of the nurses who pass through it, and the readiness with which they obtain posts on receiving their certificates. Under Miss Smith's able direction, the Kingston Infirmary has been a model of efficiency and good management, but her interests extended beyond its walls. She most thoroughly realised that as a member of a profession she had public duties to that profession, and whole heartedly and generously associated herself with movements for the general good. If she was convinced that a cause was a righteous one, questions of expediency never influenced her. She was an early member of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, a Vice-President, and one of the most energetic members of its Executive Committee. She was also a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, and President of the Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League, which owes its origin to her energy. She was also an ardent supporter of the Women's Suffrage movement.

It is difficult to convey an adequate impression of Miss Smith's charming personality to those who did not know her. In her were combined rare moral courage, with great gentleness. She was probably seen at her very best in the wards of the Infirmary, amongst the poor to whom she devoted her life, and who manifestly regarded her with the affection and trust which her sweet, unselfish, and sympathetic nature inspired.

She had intended to be present in the House of Lords on November 10th of last year to hear the debate on the third reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill, but on the morning of that day she learnt that she was stricken with a mortal disease. She faced the knowledge with characteristic courage, and those of her friends who went down to Kingston to bid her good-bye were greatly impressed by her serenity and faith.

She has fought a good fight, and, cared for to the last by those who knew and loved her, she has passed to her rest, leaving an example of devotion to duty which is the best heritage of those who came under her teaching and influence.

At the funeral at St. Luke's Church, Kingston, on Thursday afternoon, amongst the many beautiful floral tributes of affection and respect were those sent by the Matrons' Council and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

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