

The Hospital World.

THE WEMYSS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Visiting hospitals, especially if they happen to be newly built, has ever an attraction for me, so it was with a sense of pleasure that I accepted an invitation to visit with a friend, the Matron newly appointed to this infant hospital, which was only a fortnight old! On one of those rather rare, bright, sunny days of last month, we left Edinburgh and travelled over the Forth Bridge—that wonderful monument of engineering skill—to Wemyss Bay.

At the risk of getting cinders in my eyes, I kept my head out of the window, and tried to take a bird's eye view of its immensity. The Ancients would have called this the eighth wonder of the world; but the world of our day is so full of wonders, that they are perhaps at a discount. That particular day seemed to bristle with them.

A short railway journey, followed by a long tramway ride through sunny valleys of golden corn fields just ready for the reaper, and we were set down at the door of the hospital.

It is situated right in the centre of the coal mining district of Dunbeath, and tall chimneys emitting columns of black smoke made the landscape hideous.

The Randolph Wemyss Memorial Hospital has been built and partially endowed by Lady Eva, widow of Capt. R. Wemyss, to supply a very urgent need—namely, the needs of a mining population. Hitherto the men suffering from mining accidents have been conveyed either to Kirkcaldy Cottage Hospital, a distance of some miles, or else to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, a still greater distance. There was absolutely no hospital accommodation at all for the miners of Dunbeath.

In structure and equipment, the new hospital is thoroughly up-to-date. The accommodation is for about 28 patients, and all that money could do, and thought and modern science could devise for their comfort, has been expended upon it.

The Matron, Miss Mackay, has the assistance of a Staff Nurse and two assistant nurses, and although very busy organising the work for her staff and seeing visitors, she most kindly gave us as much of her time as she could, and showed us all over the hospital with pardonable pride; for such a luxurious cottage hospital it has never been my good fortune to visit.

Except for the attic flat, where the servants are accommodated, the building is entirely on a ground plan—built in the form of three sides of a quadrangle, with a central clock tower and two smaller round-pointed towers at each end of the wings.

The original idea was to build a hospital for the miners only, but this has been departed from, and the more generous plan of providing accommodation for women and children has been adopted. There are two principal wards of good size, 42 by 21, one for men and one for women, in the wings. The administrative block is in the centre, divided by a very spacious corridor, which consists of a dining-room for the staff, a splint-room, nurses' bedrooms, suite of bathrooms and lavatories. To each of the wards there is an adjoining room for the nurse in attendance, and, of course, each ward has its own bathroom, beautifully equipped.

The most modern requirements of hygiene and sanitation have been met in the structure of this splendid hospital.

I had a day or two previously been over the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, where every convenience and comfort for the patients is to be seen, but this little cottage hospital is not one whit behind it; indeed, it epitomises in itself all that is newest and best in hospital luxury and science.

The attic flat, occupied by the servants, struck me as being very fine, in every way as comfortable as the nurses' quarters, and they have their own fully-equipped bathroom and lavatory combined. The hospital is warmed by central heating as well as by open fires. Electric light is very generously provided, there being a lamp over each bed as well as in the centre of the wards, and dark, adjustable shades have been thoughtfully provided by the generous foundress for use during the night. In fact, nothing has been forgotten that could conduce to the comfort of the patients.

There is a laundry elaborately fitted, a mortuary chamber and chapel. There is also a Rontgen-Ray room. The medical attendants' room is fitted with apparatus, worked by motor power, for vibratory massage. The perfectly-equipped surgery contains everything of the newest. I noticed a new apparatus for testing urine. The automatic intercommunication telephones are in use here.

Besides the two large wards—one for men and one for women—there are emergency wards for operation patients, a sitting-room for convalescent patients, and a bedroom for a resident doctor, which, however, is not at present used, as Dr. Anderson lives quite near, and can be summoned by telephone at any time.

The theatre is a gem of its kind. Forethought has been displayed in its structure and equipment as much as in every other part of the hospital. By an ample supply of lamps overhead and at the

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