

Paget when surgeon to the hospital. By somewhat decreasing the size of the theatre, and removing the Matron's store room, which was adjacent, a convenient anæsthetic room has been arranged. The air entering the theatre is filtered, and thorough ventilation is arranged for. The theatre at the Metropolitan Hospital is always a very busy one, and therefore up-to-date-ness is a matter of considerable importance. The top ward on this floor, which is at present not used for patients, has for long been utilised for sleeping accommodation for the nurses, awaiting the time when a site and funds are available for the much needed Nurses' Home. The cubicles in this ward have now all been painted white, and where individual taste is displayed in their arrangement they look very cosy and bright. From this floor there is a fine view, and from some of the windows at the top of the hospital the early morning view, as the sun is rising, right away to the dome of St. Paul's is a thing to be remembered.

The nursing staff, under the superintendence of Miss Isabel C. Bennett, the Matron, have a busy and happy time. Miss Bennett takes a keen interest both in the practical and theoretical training of the nurses, for which excellent facilities are afforded from the acute and serious nature of the cases admitted to this busy hospital, and also in their personal welfare. The course of training is of three years' duration. A notice of this hospital would be incomplete without reference to its out-patient department, where more than 40,000 out-patients are treated annually. This department has also been reconstructed. The former waiting hall has been removed, and a central hall, into which a series of rooms open, allotted to the different physicians and surgeons. A small theatre has also been added, and is very necessary in so busy a department. "Out-patients" affords excellent experience for the probationers, and it is always popular to be assigned to this branch of work.

The present Secretary, Mr. J. C. Buchanan, has been most untiring in endeavouring to bring the present improvements to the greatest possible efficiency. He succeeded the late Mr. C. J. Byers, whom many nurses will be glad to know was cared for to the last by the hospital which he served for so long.

M. B.

WELCOME HELP.

We acknowledge with much gratitude a donation of £2 10s. from Miss Beatrice Kent, and 5s. from Miss C. C. du Sautoy for the work of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

From figures supplied by the Royal Commission on the Poor-Laws, the Local Government Board are enabled to say that at the present time about 31 per cent. of the whole number of persons in receipt of relief (exclusive of lunatics in asylums), or about 250,000 persons, may be taken to be under medical treatment by Poor Law medical officers. Medical treatment is provided both in the workhouses and infirmaries and to the poor in their own homes. The staff engaged in the medical service, particularly the nursing staff attached to the Poor-Law institutions, has developed in a striking manner in recent years. In 1875 the number of officers on the medical staff, including dispensers and nurses, was 2,456, and the number of indoor paupers was 156,000. In 1907 the corresponding numbers were 7,624 and 282,000 respectively, which amounted to an increase of 210 per cent. in the staff and 81 per cent. in the number of indoor paupers. The growth of infirmary accommodation is equally marked. Prior to 1870 the sick poor were for the most part tended in sick wards within the workhouses, but shortly after that date separate infirmaries commenced to be provided. By 1880 the infirmary accommodation in London (not including the accommodation provided in the institutions of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board) amounted to 9,046 beds, and by 1907 to 16,465 beds.

In the new Wemyss Memorial Hospital some forty cases have already received treatment. These have involved further expenditure, and Lady Eva Wemyss has most generously met this. It is proposed by the miners to have an Hospital Friday this year, when 6d. per man will be given, but in future it is proposed to have the annual subscriptions to the hospitals allocated as between the Edinburgh, Kirkcaldy, and Wemyss Institutions.

The Imperial Colour Company of the Haugh Chemical Works, Rutherglen, have withdrawn their appeal against a perpetual interdict recently granted, preventing them from representing that a fluid manufactured by them called "The Dixie Disinfectant" is 11.5 stronger than carbolic acid. A sample of the fluid was sent by Mr. Weir, Rutherglen, to the plaintiff in a recent case, Mr. J. T. Ainslie Walker, joint author of the Rideal-Walker method of testing disinfectants. Mr. Walker found that its co-efficient was 11.5, and certified it accordingly, but, finding that intending purchasers were informed that he had certified the fluid to be 11.5 stronger than carbolic acid, and that a statement to that effect was printed on bottles containing it, he objected, on the ground that his certificate was granted for the private information of Mr. Weir, and further, that samples of "The Dixie Disinfectant" purchased in the open market had a co-efficient of 2.5 to 4.0. Mr. Ainslie Walker has, by the withdrawal of the appeal, sustained his objection, and obtained the perpetual interdict.

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