

The Hospital World.

ROYAL WESTMINSTER OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

Within a stone's throw of Charing Cross, and adjoining Charing Cross Hospital, is the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, which belongs to the class of special hospitals which fulfil so useful a function in treating a class of diseases which require prompt treatment and great nicety and dexterity in handling. The latter certainly reach perfection in hospitals or wards specially devoted to their care, and eye cases are not suited for admission to general wards. Such hospitals also afford valuable opportunities for post graduate instruction for nurses—knowledge of a special branch of nursing adding greatly to the opportunities of those who take up private work.

The hospital maintains 40 beds; most of the cases admitted being surgical ones, there are wards both for men and women, devoted exclusively to cataract cases. The theatre, with its special appliances, is very interesting, especially the great magnet, with which foreign bodies are extracted from the eye, and which is so powerful that it magnetises instruments within a considerable range, so that scissors and other instruments kept near it act as magnets to needles and other small steel objects.

The small drops bottles also, each of a distinctive colour, by which the drops they contain are easily recognised, are very dainty. The bottles, with their contents, can be easily sterilised. No special eye bandage is used at this hospital, as at the Royal London Ophthalmic, the staff use ordinary roller bandages, which can be accurately adapted to the head of the patient in each case. The adjustment of these bandages requires considerable skill, and affords an opportunity for acquiring dexterity in this art.

A large number of patients attend the out-patient department, and more space would be very welcome. Every bit of ground, however, seems to have been utilised to the fullest extent, and the only method of expansion left seems to be in an upward direction, by adding another story. Then, of course, the question

of the foundations comes in, so that this is a matter for an expert architect; but it is a pity that so useful a work should be restricted for want of space.

Another want is money, which means so much in the efficiency of a hospital. Money means increased usefulness; so it is to be hoped that generous donors will not forget the needs of that sad class of sufferers—those afflicted with diseases of the eye—and in apportioning their gifts will remember the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital.

The Matron of the hospital is Miss Bertha E. Obee, who was recently elected a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. She was trained at the Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford, and has had experience in the nursing of ophthalmic cases at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, City Road, E.C.

Miss Obee is enthusiastic as to the usefulness of the special branch of nursing work which she has adopted, and believes that it is worthy of the devotion of the highest type of nurse.

There is is Day Sister, with Staff Nurses, and probationers working under her, and at night nurses in training are on duty, unless extra help is needed for special cases, when fully trained nurses are employed. Eye wards at night are usually light, as the patients are seldom bodily ill.

The nurses' quarters are at the top of the hospital where they are made as comfortable as the pressure on the space will permit.

CLINICAL NOTES ON SOME COMMON AILMENTS.

We have great pleasure in announcing that Dr. Knyvett Gordon, formerly Medical Superintendent of Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester, whose lectures to nurses are always so much appreciated by our readers, will contribute to the Journal a series of "Clinical Notes on Some Common Ailments," which will commence in our issue of March 12th. There is sure to be a special demand for this issue, so those who desire to secure extra copies of the Journal of that date should place their orders at once with the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.



Miss BERTHA E. OBBE,
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