

## The Hospital World.

### THE CHILDREN'S INFIRMARY, CARSHALTON.

The opening of the Children's Infirmary, Carshalton, is probably one of the most beneficent works ever carried into effect by a Cabinet Minister, and one which Mr. John Burns will always be able to look back upon with unfeigned satisfaction as having been accomplished during his term of office at the Local Government Board. For through the opening of this Infirmary at Carshalton the sick, the crippled, the halt, and the maimed waifs of the London slums, who drift into the Metropolitan Poor Law infirmaries, are now removed from these institutions, where often they were formerly treated in the general wards with the adult patients, and taken to their own Infirmary on the breezy Surrey Downs, where they live in the open air, and grow fat and rosy and well, or are nursed and cared for, in ideal surroundings.

The Infirmary is about a mile and a half from the station, and it is a climb up hill all the way. The

Asylum

Board thoughtfully provides for the convenience of the members of the staff who may be off duty a motor-bus, which conveys nurses to the station for the 2.30 up train every day (Sunday excepted), and meets the down train at 9 p.m., and later trains if it is notified that there will be passengers. Therefore nurses can spend a long half-day in town if they so desire.

Motors, indeed, are a great feature at Carshalton, and small wonder when we consider that the extent of the grounds is 100 acres. The dinners, the stores, the washing, and many other things are delivered by motor, and the distances to be covered may be judged by the fact that even the dinners cannot be delivered to all the wards in less than an hour. Our illustration shows motors in daily use for the service of food and stores. A bicycle is provided for the use of the Matron (Miss Winmill) and the Night Superintendent on their rounds, and, though the Matron in her more deliberate and stately progress of daily inspec-

tion has not yet adopted it as a means of locomotion, it is found very essential by the Night Superintendent, especially when summoned hastily in case of sudden emergencies.

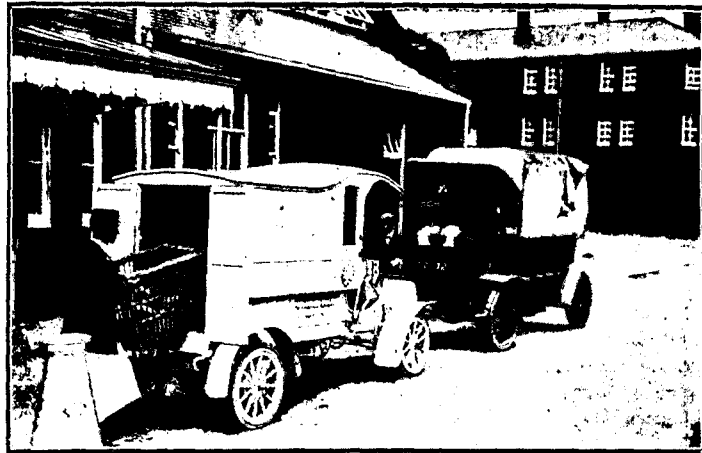
The administrative block, in which the Matron and Resident Medical Officers have their quarters, has a long frontage over-looking the valley. The wards are divided in *streets*, four blocks of eight wards in a street, and there is accommodation in all for 1,000 patients. In the acute wards there is a Sister in charge in each block, in the convalescent wards, Staff Nurses, with probationers working under them, are on duty. They are supervised by Home Sisters, each of whom lives in her own administrative block near her street, and visits the wards periodically during the day, and is summoned always in case of need.

In connection with each ward there is a cloak room where the nurses keep their cloaks and goloshes, for these are essential considering the distances in the open which they have to cover to reach their dining room.

The wards are charming, with windows looking right

over to Epsom and Banstead, and opening on to verandahs and balconies on which, day and night, children lie in their beds in the pure and splendid air, overlooking as fair and typically English a view as can be seen within many miles of London. The rich pastures, the ploughman ploughing his furrow, the ricks of hay, and the rolling meadowland, all testifying to the spaciousness and beauty of the country unspoiled by the hand of man, are seen for the first time in their lives by many of the patients. Surely they will be an abiding memory with the children when they return to the London tenements which pass for home.

Not the least benefit of their infirmary is the discipline and order which prevail there. It has its own corps of boy scouts, which Dr. Griffin, who acts as commanding officer, was good enough to parade when I visited the Infirmary. The boys were manifestly proud of belonging to the corps, and carried out the direc-



The Children's Infirmary, Carshalton.  
Food and Linen Motors.

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