

practical impossibility to the average woman if this interval for a different but not less useful work were not included.

The Ida is in the real country at Cookridge. Perhaps one needs to live in the heart of Leeds, one of the dirtiest towns in the Empire, to appreciate this.

A broad path sweeps round the front of the hospitals which stand in their own grounds among flower-beds and evergreen shrubs.

Beyond, as far as the eye can reach, is a stretch of well-wooded undulating country.

A quiet road leads up to the Hospital gates.

On the spring afternoon that I visited the place there was a glorious crimson sunset, that sent soft beams of light across the fields and into the wards.

The picture gives a good idea of the exterior of the buildings, but little of their surroundings.

The "Ida" Hospital was given to the Infirmary by Mr.

John North in memory of a daughter. The "Robert Arthington" was built some years later with money left by Mr. Arthington for that purpose.

The Hospitals are built in bungalow style, the large verandah being utilised for open-air treatment. One block of buildings is used for men, and one for women and children. The hospitals contain 88 beds and cots, of which there is seldom one empty. Twice a week patients are brought in from the General Infirmary, and the average stay is about three weeks. Over 1,000 patients pass through The Ida in a year. The cost of the upkeep is estimated as between £3,000 and £4,000 per annum. The wards are smaller than those at the Infirmary. The floors are polished, and the walls painted. In each building there is a large dining-room, one for men, and one for women patients. These rooms have bay windows, facing the fields, and are tastefully, if sparingly, furnished.

Some of the patients treated at the Semi-Convalescent Hospitals will never be healthy. Sometimes a hopeless or a chronic case is sent out here to reap the benefit of the pleasant country surroundings, the object being rather

to brighten their outlook than to restore health.

One noticed a few white-faced men and weary worn-out women, on whom death had set his mark, but whose latter days would be brightened by this change, sandwiched in between the hospital wards and their overcrowded homes. These, however, were the exceptions. Most of the patients were making strides towards perfect health. To the children "The Ida" stands for a country holiday.

Even those who were too ill to leave their cots wore happy faces. Many of the others were romping about, growing rosy and strong-limbed, and getting a glimpse of what life in the country might be.

The Sister-in-charge said that some of the nurses were born to nurse sick children. Thus one of them was loved and obeyed by every child in the hospital, and found her recreation as well as her work among the toddlers.



The Ida Hospital, Cookridge, near Leeds.

There is no building set apart as a Nurses' Home. The nurses' bedrooms are on the top floor, and quite apart from the hospital wards. The resident medical officer and the Sister-in-charge have each a sitting-room in the centre of the hospitals. The

room of the Sister-in-charge is large, comfortably furnished, and bright with prints and flowers. Its windows look out on a wide sweep of peaceful country, and through them is borne air laden with health and sweet odours of flowers and fields.

With such a retreat it was not surprising to find that the Sister-in-charge had kept her high ideals in spite of several years' work among the sick and the semi-convalescent.

Members of the Sussex County Nursing Association, representing over thirty different branches, were last week entertained at a garden party, at Ratton, Willingdon, by Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Freeman-Thomas, who, with the Hon. Mrs. Charles Egerton, Hon. Secretary of the Association, received the guests on arrival. They were driven in brakes from Polegate, whither they travelled from the various centres.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)