

Pantin, daughter of Dr. C. S. Pantin, then presented a bouquet to Lady Raglan, and the architect and the builder having offered a gold key, suitably inscribed, to Lord and Lady Raglan for their acceptance, the latter at once unlocked the main door of the building.

Lady Raglan, whose speech was loudly applauded, then said: "This magnificent hospital is now opened. May the glorious light of everlasting sunshine enter in and dwell there with those who are sick and suffering, and may it shed its lustre to give courage and joy to them, as well as to those who attend them. We have received this key with a very great deal of pleasure. It is a most lovely key, and will always be treasured by us as a souvenir of our most happy associations with Noble's Hospital. I thank Miss Pantin for my lovely bouquet."

Lord Raglan also expressed the great pleasure it had been to him and Lady Raglan to take part in so important a function, and reminded those present that the expenses of the new hospital would be greater than those of the old one, and generous subscriptions would be needed.

At the conclusion of the proceedings the new hospital was thrown open for inspection, and tea was served to the general public at a cost of one shilling each, the finances benefiting to the extent of about £50 by the opening ceremony.

#### THE HOSPITAL.

The position of the hospital is surely second to none in the kingdom. On an elevated site, just outside the town, it commands extensive views from most of the windows of the lovely Braddan Valley, and more distant mountain ranges of this fertile island, including just at present numerous undulating cornfields, in which sheaves of golden corn stand ready for carrying, in perfect condition. The windows of the matron's delightful rooms, as well as some of the nurses' quarters, overlook this exquisite landscape, which must be a continual source of enjoyment to all lovers of beauty.

The hospital, which is excellently planned, is built of local stone, rough-cast externally, and roofed with Westmoreland green slating. The Administrative Block contains the house surgeon's rooms, the matron's suite of sitting-room, bedroom, bathroom, and office, "where," the alert and smiling porter remarked, "we shall come when we have to be reprimanded." "Oh, yes," he replied in answer to an interrogation, "I'm under the Matron, too," and the tone in which he said it left no doubt that he considered his lot a happy

one. The night nurses' quarters are at the top of the building, thoughtfully shut off by a dividing door; the kitchen and annexes light, airy, and models of their kind; the corridors and staircase tessellated, the work having been carried out by Italian workmen.

There are five general wards, each containing ten beds, for male and female medical cases, male and female surgical cases, and children respectively. They are flooded with light and sunshine, and pleasanter places in which to be ill, it would be difficult to imagine. In addition there are seven single rooms for private patients, and a complete self-contained isolation block. The X-ray department has been fitted up in the most complete manner by Dr. Hall-Edwards, the well-known expert, in consultation with Dr. Pantin.

The operating theatre is a model of its kind, with anæsthetic and sterilizing rooms annexed; and the out-patient department, most conveniently arranged, includes a dentist's room, with adjoining recovery-room.

An Electric Generating Station, which works automatically, supplies the necessary current for lighting the hospital, working the lift, and for the X-ray requirements; an alternative method of lighting by gas is provided, and a Mortuary, Post-Mortem Room, and Pathological Room complete the departments of a hospital which must take its place in the front rank of hospitals of its size, and which reflects the very highest credit on all concerned.

The Matron, Miss Bridson, who is a native of the island, was trained at the Southern Hospital, Manchester, with Miss Mary Gordon, one of the trio of notable Sisters who held the Matronships of St. Thomas' Hospital and Charing Cross Hospital, London, and the Southern Hospital respectively. It is evident that in her the hospital has a most capable and devoted, as well as charming, Superintendent.

The move from the new hospital to the old is expected to take place in about a month's time, and the fate of the old one, overlooking Douglas Bay, which is in excellent condition, seems still uncertain. Surely it should be secured as a convalescent home for one of the great Lancashire hospitals. Does someone whisper "Rather bleak for convalescents"? Let no one think it of this sun-kissed isle, where palms, yuccas, and tree fuchsias flourish and abound, and the sun's rays caress one with their warmth as if to atone for the dull and cheerless English summer. It is a lovely and fertile country rejoicing in Home Rule, and apparently prospering under it.

M. B.

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