

## CHARMING HOSPITALITY.

Space fails us for more than a brief mention of the charming hospitality and thoughtful arrangements for our pleasure which met us on all sides. Thus on Wednesday 4th, Miss Reeves, Lady Superintendent of the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, most hospitably entertained a number of members of the Conference to luncheon, the Dean of St. Patrick's conducted a party round the Cathedral, pointing out and explaining its beauties, and the Master of the Rotunda (Dr. Jellett) and the Matron (Miss Ramsden) were At Home at this world-famous hospital after the afternoon session.

## THE ROYAL VICTORIA.

The Out-patients' Department at the Royal Victoria is new, spacious, up-to-date, and a hurried glimpse in the short time possible to devote to its inspection made one long to return and study its system of case-taking and record-keeping at greater leisure, for it is evidently most complete and thorough and the record of any patient who has attended the hospital formerly can be turned up with the greatest ease. Different coloured cards for eyes and ears, and again for the patients of different doctors simplifies the work as much as possible.

## THE ROTUNDA.

To visit the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, must always be a somewhat epoch-making occasion to a midwife, who well knows that its fame has gone forth throughout the world, and that the excellence of the training given there and the experience obtainable—for a large number of abnormal cases are admitted—is of the very first rank. On the occasion of the "At-home" many nurses were in the tea room, looking after the creature comforts of the guests in the kindest possible manner. We were much impressed by the neat uniforms and tidy caps of the Rotunda nurses, and by their professional appearance generally. Nowadays, when caps appear to be so often regarded as decorative rather than useful, it is pleasant to see them put on in the sensible and becoming fashion of years ago, when they were "uniform" in fact as well as in name.

The new labour wards at the Rotunda are models of what such wards should be, and the casual visitor is, quite rightly, enveloped in an overall, and has to don goloshes before being admitted. The bath in the bathroom strikes one as specially low, a wise and necessary provision. The labour ward contains five tables, or stretchers, for the delivery of patients, privacy being secured by means of washable curtains. Students and pupil midwives are admitted to see the labours from the other side of a glass screen, in which case the experience is beneficial to the pupil, but does not, of course, count towards her cases for the Central Midwives Board.

In a Maternity Ward one saw a mother just about to leave the hospital with twins, which have

evidently been the pets of the ward. It was only the eighth day which to our ideas on this side the Channel seems full early to undertake household duties and the care of a family once more, but in Ireland we know it is usual.

Readers of this journal will remember that the Rotunda has an interesting history, and perhaps call to mind the portrait of Dr. Mosse, the founder of the hospital, and his tragic history. Finding the calls on his private purse more than it would bear, he appealed for public help. His work in founding the hospital was recognised by his appointment as Governor, but within two years he died of a broken heart owing to accusations by his enemies, who accused him of misappropriating the public funds to his own use.

## ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.

St. Patrick's Cathedral is an interesting building, with a history which becomes increasingly so when the Dean is one's guide, for he evidently knows and loves every stone in the Cathedral, and has done much to restore and beautify it. For instance, standing in the Lady Chapel, now dignified and beautiful, he tells how when the late King was made a Knight of the Thistle in the early sixties, the Lady Chapel was used as a robing room, and by order of the Board of Works, the walls were tinted salmon colour and the roof sky blue, a colour scheme which seemed appropriate to the occasion to that public body. It was in St. Patrick's Cathedral that King William returned thanks after his victory at the Battle of the Boyne, and the chair in which he sat on that occasion was shown to us.

There are at least two windows in the Cathedral dedicated to St. Patrick, who is believed to have selected the site. One of them, quite wrongly we were told, depicts him in a Roman mitre; certainly the Celtic mitre which he is depicted wearing in another window seems more correct.

There are a number of memorial tablets and monuments, a fine stone pulpit in memory of Dean Pakenham, and an old pulpit which was in use during Swift's time. The largest monument is one near the south-west entrance, erected in 1631 by Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork, to the memory of his wife and their sixteen children. At this end of the building also are a bust of Swift, tablets to his memory and that of the famous Hester Johnson ("Stella"), with an epitaph by himself (Swift, who died in 1745, is buried in the nave); a bust of John Philpot Curran; a statue of Captain Boyd, R.N., drowned in Kingstown Harbour in 1861; a tablet to Carolan, the last of the Irish bards, and others.

St. Patrick's, which stands on the lowest level of the city, has on various occasions been in danger of an overflow from the river Poddle. Indeed, the Dean related that he has known the nave flooded and has seen the reflection of the roof in the water. Now, however, the ground underneath is drained into the Liffey, and the Poddle is confined by culverts, and gives no more trouble.

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