

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

THE BIRMINGHAM MIDLAND AND EYE HOSPITAL.

Situated in the centre of the city, within a stone's throw of the Cathedral, the Birmingham Midland and Eye Hospital has for nearly a century, on various sites, been carrying on a most useful work for the poor within its borders, and in addition it now sets aside a certain number of beds for a class of patients for whom little provision is made, those who are better off than the ordinary class of hospital patients, but who cannot afford the fees of a private nursing home.

At the Birmingham Eye Hospital they can receive skilled care in private wards for £2 2s. a week.

The Matron, Miss Marriott, has been there for many years; indeed, with the exception of the Matron of the Hospital for Women, she is the senior Matron in the city.

The hospital presents a fine frontage to Church Street, and on entering it one is admitted to a handsome hall, with a noble staircase with a very fine balustrade of wrought iron directly facing the doorway, branching off either side, and giving distinction to the whole building.

The hospital has 100 beds, besides a very large out-patient department, in which some 30,000 patients are relieved annually.

Like all eye patients, many of the in-patients are able to be up, and consequently large and pleasant day-rooms are provided for them, and the men are allowed to smoke in certain rooms, a privilege which they must greatly appreciate. There is a special ward for the children, who seem happy and merry. In the bathroom a bath of suitable size is provided, besides a bed-side bath not often used, and a row of basins for washing purposes at a suitable height. Each child has his own towel and flannel and washing appliances, neatly arranged in a rack specially designed for the purpose.

The theatre, as will be seen from the illustration, is a fine department of the hospital, flooded with light, and up to date in every way.

The great Harb magnet, which attracts to itself such foreign bodies as fragments of needles, steel filings, and other irritating substances which may become imbedded in an eye, can be seen behind the operation table. In an industrial centre such as Birmingham, eye accidents are often occurring, and in the busy wards, theatre, and out-patient department, with its own special operating-room, probationers learn the deftness and delicacy of touch which is so essential a part of the equipment of all nurses. The care of delicate eye instruments is also a test of good work.

Adjoining the hospital is the Nurses' Home,



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where each nurse has a comfortably furnished bedroom, and there are pleasant sitting-rooms for sisters and nurses. The Home was formerly a G.F.S. Lodge, which the authorities had for long been anxious to secure, and some years ago it passed into its possession, the accommodation it provides adding greatly to the comfort of the nursing staff.

The consideration of the committees of Birmingham hospitals for the comfort of their nurses is very noticeable.

Lastly, the hospital has its own well-appointed chapel, served from the Cathedral.

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