

## THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

Great interest naturally attaches at the present moment to the General Hospital, Birmingham, whose Matron, Miss E. M. Musson, will act as President of the Nursing Conference to be held next week in the capital of the Midlands, and whose Assistant Matron, Miss Kathleen Grace Lloyd, is Hon. Secretary of the Nursing Exhibition.

Miss Musson, who was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, has had a distinguished nursing career, gaining the gold medal of her training school in her final examination in 1908. She subsequently held successively the positions of Night Superintendent, Sister of Luke Ward, and Assistant Matron, from which she was appointed Matron of the Swansea General and Eye Hospital, and after holding this position with distinction for three years, she was appointed to the Matronship of the General Hospital, Birmingham, in March, 1909.

Miss Musson is Principal Matron of the 1st Southern General Hospital of the Territorial Force Nursing Service.

Miss Lloyd was trained at the General Hospital, Birmingham, from 1904 to 1908, and has successively held the positions of Sister, Night Sister, Home Sister, and Assistant Matron in her training school. She is also a Matron in the Territorial Force Nursing Service.

The Hospital is very centrally situated, easy of access from the main streets of the town, and yet bordering on a very poor district which must provide it with many patients. Its able House Governor, Mr. Howard Collins, has presided over its destinies for many years, and the present building opened in 1897, which is a model of its kind, owes much to his wise oversight.

No one visiting the hospital can fail to be impressed with its handsome appearance. It is built of warm red brick on the pavilion plan, round a quadrangle. The central arched corridor connecting the pavilions is handsome and impressive, and a double row of pillars and arches make the large outpatient hall specially fine.

The wards, which contain 24 beds, with smaller wards and various annexes attached, are beautifully light and spotless. Perhaps the much discussed plenum system of ventilation which is in force throughout the hospital may contribute to its spotlessness. Certain it is that there are no two opinions as to the merits of this system in the

mind of the theatre sister who finds that her work is greatly assisted by the absence of dust secured by its installation.

It is noticeable that the largest theatre, which is lined throughout with marble and alabaster, has had to be divided to meet the demands upon it. In consequence additional accommodation is needed for dressing rooms for the surgeons, and for the sterilization of instruments and dressings, and it is proposed that these shall be added, as well as an operating room in the outpatient department.

The number of operations, many of them very serious ones, performed in the hospital last year, was no less than 4,317, and as the more chronic cases are speedily

passed on to the Jaffray Branch Hospital at Erdington, under the able management of Miss de Chastelain, and the hospital has also an arrangement whereby many cases are referred to the District Nursing Societies in Birmingham and the surrounding district, which do such splendid work in the homes of the poor, it follows that the bulk of the cases treated in the hospital are serious and acute, even so, and although last year a ward of ten beds was opened for emergency cases there have generally been over 180 cases on the list waiting admission, and the Board of Management



MISS E. M. MUSSON, MATRON, GENERAL HOSPITAL,  
BIRMINGHAM.

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