

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

THE VISIT TO WORCESTER.

A very pleasant expedition was that to Worcester on the afternoon of Friday, June 12th, when some of the members of the Conference including Dr. and Mrs. Haynes, and Miss M. Breay, Miss Truslove, Matron of the Smallwood Hospital, Redditch, and others visited the "faithful city," so named for its loyalty to the Royalist cause in the war between Charles I and his Parliament, and, amongst the many points of interest to be seen, elected to visit the Commandery, and the Royal Porcelain Works, before proceeding to the General Infirmary, where, by the invitation of the

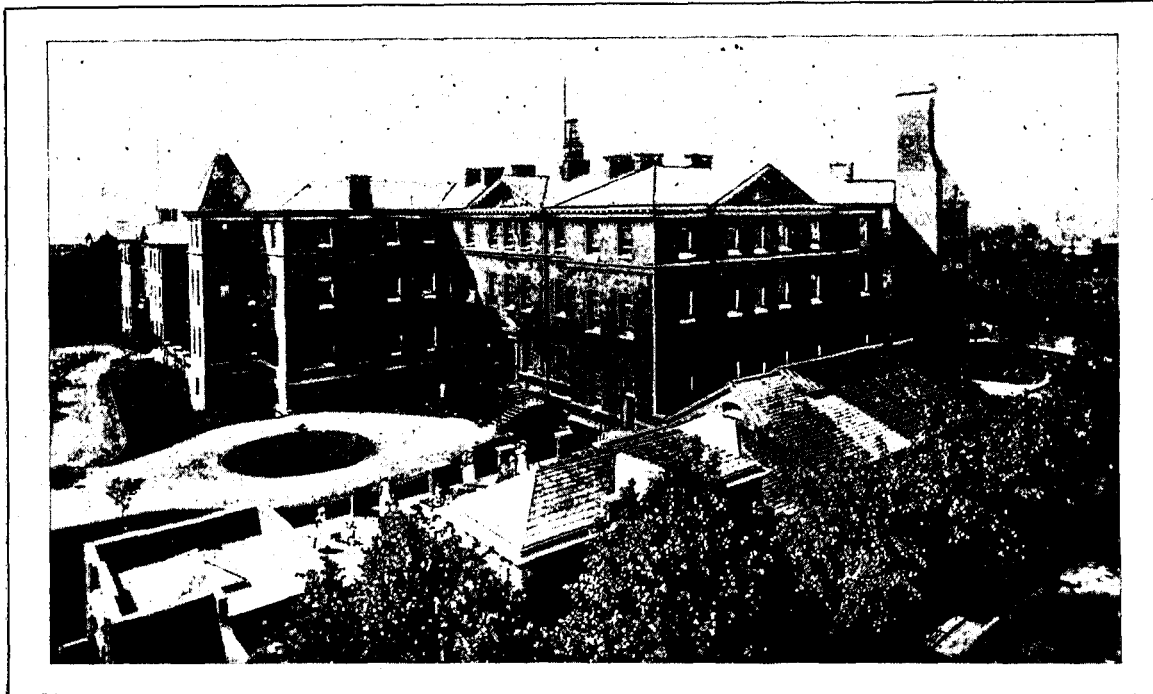
glass, and old oak furniture were greatly admired.

The party, who were joined by two of the Sisters from the Infirmary, then went on to the Porcelain Works, passing on their way the noble Cathedral, set on the banks of the Severn, a cruciform building, the tower of which is one of the finest in England.

THE ROYAL PORCELAIN WORKS.

Everyone knows that Worcester has produced some of the finest china in the world, and it was a member of the medical profession, Dr. Wall, chemist and artist, who, in 1751, established the porcelain works and was successful in producing a most beautiful soft porcelain.

At the Porcelain Works we saw the whole process of the manufacture of the china for which



THE GENERAL INFIRMARY, WORCESTER.

Mayor, Mr. H. A. Leicester, Chairman of the Infirmary, and the Mayoress of the city a dainty tea, most acceptable after the exertions of a hot afternoon, was most hospitably dispensed by the Matron, Miss Herbert.

THE COMMANDERY.

The Commandery is a most interesting old building founded by St. Wulstan, Bishop of Worcester in the year 1085 for a Master, Priests, and Brethren of the Augustinian Order, who ministered to the sick, relieved the poor and sheltered the traveller. Like many other houses in Worcester, it is an admirable example of the old black and white architecture and its beautiful Refectory and Guestern Hall, with fine open roofs of carved oak, with massive doors, and stained

Worcester is famous, beginning with the huge vats in which the raw clay is worked into a uniform mass like thick cream, called slip, and run into reservoirs prepared for it in the mixing room. Here it is further treated until it becomes of the consistency of paste. After this it is handled by the workman, and one sees the thrower at work at the potter's wheel, who receives the ball of clay, throws it on the wheel, and with his hands moulds a cup or basin to the desired shape, a method of work nearly 4000 years old. It is then pressed into a mould and in a short time is ready for the turner, who turns it on his lathe and passes it on to the handler, who fixes on handles with liquid clay, which acts as cement. Plates and dishes are subjected to flat pressing. The next process is baking, or firing, which takes about

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