

## AN UP-TO-DATE TRAINING SCHOOL. THE PADDINGTON INFIRMARY.

A very interesting ceremony took place on Monday last, when the Right Hon. the Earl of Onslow, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, opened the new Nurses' Home, and the operating theatre at the Paddington Infirmary in the Harrow Road, W. The visitors assembled in the new Central Corridor, where a reception was held by Mr. H. A. Baker, J.P., L.C.C. The ceremony took place in the Nurses' Sitting Room after the Earl of Onslow had been presented with the key of the main entrance by the architect, Mr. H. Percy Adams, F.R.I.B.A., and requested to unlock the door.

The Chairman of the Board, in opening the proceedings, gave an interesting survey of the history and work of the institution, and on behalf of the Board of Guardians and the Staff of the Infirmary offered to their distinguished visitor their cordial thanks for consenting to open the Home.

The Guardians realised that the institution was an Infirmary, and not a general hospital, but they had made a distinct advance towards the standing of a general hospital by the provision of the new Home and the up-to-date operating theatre. A general hospital was not compelled by law to admit patients, but the Guardians were, under statute, compelled to do so. A general hospital could discharge patients when convenient, the Guardians could not. They had, however, taken a step calculated to raise the standard of both nursing and treatment, by establishing a close relationship with St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, so that they had at their disposal some of the best medical talent and skill available, and St. Mary's Hospital had the advantage of the clinical experience obtainable in the wards of the Infirmary.

The Paddington Infirmary came into existence in 1883, and was a small institution with 280 beds. Now the number of beds was 594, and over 200 operations took place annually, besides X-ray treatment. Speaking for the Medical Superintendent, the Matron, and all concerned, he offered a very hearty welcome to the Earl of Onslow, and asked him to confirm the opening which he had already performed.

The Earl of Onslow, who was received with applause, said it was a great pleasure to him to be able to declare the building open. He felt certain that the experiment to which Mr. Baker had referred would prove one of the highest utility. They know that progress was essential, and thanks to the public spirit of the Guardians this was taking place. They had been told of the extreme necessity for the extension of the Nurses' Home. The reason was twofold: The increase of beds in the Infirmary necessitated an increase in the Nursing Staff; but also the hours of nurses had, in the past, been far too long, and in order to reduce these hours there must be more people to do the work. The result would be to make the Nursing Profession more popular with young ladies con-

sidering their vocation in life, and would increase their efficiency. On behalf of his Right Hon. friend the Minister of Health and his colleagues at the Ministry he congratulated the Matron and Nurses on their Home, the Guardians on the completion of their task, and the Medical Superintendent (Dr. Stewart) on the success of the enterprise.

Prayer having been offered by the Bishop of Kensington, the Chairman of the Building Committee, and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Mr. L. V. Lester-Garland, gave some details of the construction of the building, and the proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Earl of Onslow, proposed by Mrs. H. Jones, Chairman of the Infirmary Committee, seconded by Mr. W. Day, O.B.E., Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee.

No, that was not quite the conclusion, for a burst of applause in the Lobby indicated the presentation to the Matron, Miss G. E. Copeman, of a lovely bouquet, by the Clerk of the Works.

The Home provides most comfortable accommodation for the nursing staff, each having a separate bedroom. The sitting-room, with cream coloured walls, green paint, and carpet of Aubusson colouring, in which the ceremony was held, is a charming room, and the nurses have every reason to be content with their quarters. They indeed seemed pleased to do the honours, and many nurses took little groups of visitors round the Home and explained its main features.

It was a pleasure to make the acquaintance of the Sister-Tutor, Miss Wendley, for in a large institution such as this it is quite impossible that the Matron should undertake the detailed teaching of the nurses, and, while clinical instruction in the wards by the Sisters is most valuable, it is necessarily subordinated to the exigencies of ward work, and the care of the patients. The appointment of a nursing officer whose primary duty it is to instruct the probationers must make for systematic and improved teaching.

The new operating theatre pleased us greatly, as it manifestly did the Theatre Sister, who had worked for long under other conditions. Spacious and well lighted, with both a north and a top light, it is painted with Paripan, of a soft cream colour, a great improvement on the dazzling white so often used. The anaesthetic room is coloured green, a restful shade suggestive of repose; the sterilising room is lined with white tiles, and the surgeon's room is again cream in colour. The lobby as well as the theatre and its annexes are tessellated throughout. In the plain doors leading to the theatre little round windows are inset, so that those whom it may concern can ascertain the progress of an operation without opening the door. Above the place where the operating table will be is a great lamp, with reflectors, on the principle of a lighthouse lamp, and freely movable latitudinally though not longitudinally.

Tea in the Nurses' Sitting Room from 4 to 5 was a most hospitable and happy function.

We congratulate the probationers at the Paddington Infirmary on the happy auspices under which their training is being carried on in this

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