

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

### RE-OPENING OF WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

Those who have watched the growing beauty of the exterior of Westminster Hospital ideally placed in Broad Sanctuary, from which site the Governors wisely decided not to move, were prepared to find the alterations to the interior of the hospital, which has been practically rebuilt, admirably carried out, and when it was open for inspection on July 15th, before the Solemn Service of Thanksgiving with commemoration of Founders and Benefactors, in Westminster Abbey, they were not disappointed.

At 3.30 p.m. Sir James Purves Stewart, K.C.M.G., C.B., Senior Physician, kindly met members of the Press in the Office of the Secretary, Mr. C. M. Power, M.C., where they received every courtesy and attention, and gave them some detailed information concerning the hospital. Before the reconstruction the authorities had, he said, been turning out modern medicine in an antiquated building, pouring new wine out of an old bottle. Three classes of persons would benefit by the recent improvements, the physicians and surgeons, the students—the future doctors—because owing to the organisation of the new departments the hospital now ranked as a University Unit—and the patients, because their treatment would be carried on with the best possible equipment. This had been brought up-to-date at every point, so that the staff could give the most modern treatment in London, and indeed in the Empire. Formerly they did their work in spite of the equipment, now with its help.

The Senior Surgeon, Mr. Walter Spencer, F.R.C.S., is well known to nurses, and appreciated by them.

In the basement of the hospital are to be found the electrical department and X-ray department, the out-patient department, the dispensary, and the nurses' cloak room. On the ground floor, in addition to the general wards, which we note with pleasure are still of modest proportions, containing not more than twelve beds, named after benefactors of the hospital, are two new eye wards, and new observation wards at present unnamed, and the surgery and casualty department. On the first floor are further named wards and the board room. On the second floor the Marie Celeste Ward for children attracted much attention and admiration; its beautiful tiling and picture panels have been provided from funds specially collected for the purpose by Girl Guides and children in all parts of the British Isles.

On this floor, also, are the two operating theatres, one entirely new, beside the medical treatment room, and various other wards.

On the third floor are to be found the new kitchen, sculleries and pantry, spick and span as new paint and much polishing can make them. Near by are the nurses' and maids' dining rooms, and on the same level are a labour ward, maternity ward and septic ward, all new, a clinical laboratory, and new ear, nose and throat wards.

On the fourth floor the new private wards and rooms for sick nurses are found, containing 14 beds in all, and fortunate indeed are the nurses who, when ill, are cared for in such delightful surroundings. The spacious wards, some arranged as single rooms and others with four beds, are most harmoniously arranged, the prevailing note being blue, and the well-made furniture a charming shade of unpolished oak. From the windows, and from some of the beds also, is a glorious view of the Abbey, which must be a constant delight to any patients fortunate enough to be located there. Incidentally we wonder whether nurses always realise the value they receive in kind, in addition to their salaries. Not only do they have the most expert medical and nursing care, but the actual charge to paying patients in these wards will be £10 10s. per week for a single ward, and £6 6s. in a ward of four beds.

The hospital is now open for the reception of patients.

Tea was hospitably provided for the visitors in the Board Room, and elsewhere, after which the majority proceeded to the Abbey.

#### THE ABBEY SERVICE.

The procession of representatives of Westminster Hospital entered the Abbey by the West door, and passed two and two to their places in the choir. First came the porter, followed by the students in their respective years, juniors first, then the nursing staff; probationers, staff nurses and sisters, the house-staff, the administrative staff, the officers of the hospital, lady almoners, steward, pharmacist, clerk, matron, chaplain, architect, secretary, the lecturers of the medical school, the visiting medical staff, the house committee, the treasurers of the hospital, and the Vice-Presidents. The uniforms of the nurses and the academic robes of the medical staff made a striking note of colour, as did those of the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of Westminster, who were conducted to their seats beneath the Lantern.

The service, which began with the hymn "Stand up and bless the Lord, ye people of His choice," was carried out with beauty and dignity, the lovely, clear boyish voices of the Abbey choir leading the singing. From the steps of the Sacrarium the Dean, supported by the Clergy of the Abbey, welcomed the representatives of Westminster Hospital in the name of the Dean and Chapter, saying it was a high privilege to do so. They liked to think that the hospital, and its medical and nursing staff, were second to none, and to one and all he gave heartfelt greeting.

He then read the "Commemoration of Founders and Benefactors," too long to reproduce in its entirety, "by whose liberality during the past two centuries Westminster Hospital has been enabled to carry on an active and beneficent work in the relief of human suffering."

The following paragraph must, however, be quoted:—

"On the fourteenth day of January in the year 1715, the four original Founders of our Hospital met together at St. Dunstan's Coffee House, Fleet Street, and founded a Charitable Society for Relieving the Poor and Needy and other Distressed Persons. The names of these Founders were Henry Hoare, Banker; Patrick Cockburn, a Non-juring Priest; William Wogan, a writer of devotional theology; and Robert Witham. Subsequently these four men of good will decided to confine their efforts for the care of the sick and needy to residents in the Parish of St. Margaret's, Westminster."

On March 23rd, 1720, a house was hired in Petty France for a "Place of Entertainment for the sick and needy in our ancient City of Westminster," and the first patient was admitted on May 11th of that year.

"A Training School for Nurses having been first of all established in Great Smith Street, it was removed in 1874 to Queen Anne's Gate, a development which has added enormously to the general well-being and efficiency of our Hospital."

#### THE NURSES' HOME.

Now again, this time to give space for additional wards, the nursing staff of the hospital is housed in Queen Anne's Gate. A hotel vacated during the war, and temporarily used as Government offices, next to the Westminster Home and Institution for Trained Nurses, has been acquired by the hospital authorities and the two houses connected.

The Home, as a department of the hospital, is under the Matron, Miss Edith Smith, R.R.C., and the Sister-in-Charge, and Sister-Tutor is Miss Florence Windley, S.R.N. All the instruction of the probationers will be carried on in the Home, and a lecture hall and a sick room cookery kitchen have been installed.

Comfortable and airy bedrooms, gas fires, which probationers can use on the penny-in-the-slot basis, provision for hair shampooing, all contribute to making the Home a real one for the nursing staff of the Westminster Hospital.

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