

outbreak of diarrhoea and dysentery amongst British troops in Northern Kurdistan in 1923:—

"The aeroplanes were despatched from Baghdad to Kirkuk on April 28th, and the evacuation of cases commenced from a point near Serkhuma. The selection of suitable or even possible landing grounds in this area was a matter of very considerable difficulty, and pilots had to exercise more than ordinary skill, being further handicapped by altogether unusual atmospheric conditions. The operation was successfully concluded on May 2nd. The first two days were characterised by extremely bad weather, particularly bad for the type of aeroplane in use. The aeroplanes were compelled to climb to at least 5,000 ft., so that control could be retained in the crossing of the Adghir Dag Mountain ridge.

"Before the effects of the strong air currents over this ridge were recognised an ambulance aeroplane, with both engines running normally, was forced down from 3,000 ft. and crashed in inaccessible country. This unavoidable crash was so skilfully managed by the pilot that none of the sick was injured. In actual fact, after the aeroplane had come to rest on the ground one of the patients had to be awakened and told to get out of the aeroplane. Owing to the nature of the terrain, there was no possibility of landing other aeroplanes to pick up the patients without running serious risk of damage to both crew and aeroplane. A smaller aeroplane carrying a Royal Air Force medical officer as passenger was, however, by skilful piloting, enabled to land close to the crashed aeroplane. A seriously ill patient, who probably would not have survived, was at once evacuated in the second aeroplane. The medical officer remained with the sick, and was able to render assistance in the long and difficult journey to Koi, which was accomplished on donkeys and ponies."

THE PRELIMINARY TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES: ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

Forty years ago this year I entered the Special Probationers' Home of St. Bartholomew's Hospital in King's Square, Goswell Road, E.C., for training, when it was under the kindly direction of Miss Henderson (Sister Frances), and after a few brief, happy and strenuous months, the hospital itself. How proud we were of the hospital and of our Matron, Miss Manson (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick), and how we thirsted for knowledge, and slaked our thirst how and where we could, in addition to absorbing the instruction provided for us.

Now the Home in King's Square is to be put to other uses, and is being re-organised and adapted as a Preliminary Training School.

Happy will be probationers who enter the hospital after weeks of instruction in the Preliminary Home, this is as it should be. But I doubt whether they will be happier, or perhaps quite as happy, as the pros. in those far-off days, who had nimbly to guess at what was required by the staff nurse, who, attending on the surgeon, imperatively directed them to fetch articles they had never heard of, while the surgeon waited.

Will the modern probationer, for whom learning is made easy, feel as great a thirst for knowledge as we did? I wonder.

M. B.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

THE WEST END HOSPITAL FOR NERVOUS DISEASES.

The in-patient department of the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, originally located in Welbeck Street, London, W., where the Out-patient Department is still carried on, was in 1919 removed to St. Katharine's Lodge, Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park, and a more ideal location for patients worn and worried by diseases of the nervous system, of which most of us—even nurses—talk so glibly, and know so little, can hardly be imagined. We were not surprised, on a recent visit to the hospital, to hear one patient, whose bed was set in a big window looking towards the Royal Chapel of St. Katharine, near by, say: "It's just heaven, Matron." The atmosphere of repose, and the beautiful grounds and outlook, must have a most beneficent influence on the patients received into its care.

The Chairman of the Hospital is the Viscount Lascelles, K.G., D.S.O., and the Vice Chairman, Mr. F. W. Davy, B.A. Cantab. H.R.H. Princess Mary is one of the Lady Patronesses of the Hospital. During the War the beautiful house was used as a War Hospital, and when the Committee of the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, were looking for new quarters for their in-patient department, the vacant house seemed perfect for their purpose. With the reconstruction successfully carried out, and additions made, the hospital is not only ideally situated, but well equipped for its important work.

The additions include some single-bed wards, a modern operating unit, and an isolation wing, a new X Ray Department, and additional accommodation for electro-therapeutic treatment. The post-mortem room, beautiful little mortuary chapel, with guardian angels on either side the altar, and a pathological department, are all part of the reconstruction work, and also a shelter, extending from the children's ward, big enough to accommodate some half-dozen cots. The hospital is also equipped for "sun treatment." Most of the children look wonderfully well, explainable, perhaps, by the fact that a great deal of orthopaedic work is done—so that physically all are not ill—the hospital having originally been established for little cripple-children, the extension of its work, first to women, and then to men, suffering from diseases of the nervous system, is of later date. Those suffering both from organic and functional diseases are received.

The walls of the wards are coloured a restful shade of grey, with charming effect. There are 75 beds for in-patients, and the nursing staff consists of the Matron (Miss Kathleen A. Smith, S.R.N., R.R.C.), an Assistant Matron, five Sisters, six staff nurses, twelve probationers and two masseuses.

The children's ward is on the ground floor, with French windows opening on to the grounds, above it is the men's ward, in the shape of a letter L, and above, again, the women's wards—the L divided at the angle in this case.

In the out-patient department at 73, Welbeck Street, are the Secretarial, Dispensing and Massage Departments, and the office of the Secretary, Mr. J. P. Wetenhall, B.A. Oxon, is here located. Here the nursing staff consists of a Sister-in-Charge, a Staff Nurse, a Probationer and six Masseuses.

It is impossible to go round the hospital without reflecting on the valuable opportunity for training in the nursing care of special diseases of the brain and nervous system here treated by distinguished surgeons and physicians. Few hospitals, except, perhaps, the very largest, have wards set apart for the reception of cases of this nature. Yet throughout her nursing career a nurse will meet them, and be but ill equipped to deal with them, if in her training days she had had no experience in their care.

In the past, as was perhaps natural, Committees of Management have been chiefly concerned in providing good

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)