

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

THE NEW OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT AT ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

The new out-patient department at St. George's Hospital, which has been constructed at a cost of £16,000 to meet the growing demand for accommodation, was recently opened by the President of the Royal College of Physicians Sir Humphry D. Rolleston, who, at the same time, unveiled a bronze bust of John Hunter, a fine example of Gilbert's work, which, for a quarter of a century occupied a prominent place in the noble board room of the hospital (where a fine portrait in oils has an honoured place over the mantle-piece). The bust has lately been removed, and mounted over the gateway of the Medical School in Knightsbridge, where it can be seen daily by thousands of passers-by, a fitting tribute to the great anatomist, founder of scientific surgery, and surgeon to St. George's Hospital from 1768-1793, where he instituted clinical teaching.

Those nurses whose memories can carry them back over the last forty years of hospital life, realize the great transformation which has taken place in the out-patient departments of our hospitals during that time.

Then accommodation and equipment were of the most primitive, and one or two middle-aged nurses composed the nursing staff; this most valuable department not being used for teaching purposes in connection with the Nurse-Training School.

Now the large hospitals with medical and nurse training schools attached have for the most part out-patient departments, designed, equipped and staffed according to the most

modern methods, of which that of St. George's Hospital is the most recent example, the cost of construction and equipment being about £16,000, of which a considerable sum still remains to be obtained.

In unveiling the bust of John Hunter, Sir Humphry Rolleston said that this wonderful genius was born so much in advance of his time that even now, nearly 200 years later, he had hardly been overtaken. It was their proud heritage at St. George's, to belong to the hospital where so much of his work was done.

Concerning the new out-patient department, Sir Humphry Rolleston pointed out that when St. George's Hospital was opened in 1734 (with 30 beds) the out-patients in the first year numbered 258; last year they numbered 34,628. Even in the face of financial straits a new out-patient department had become absolutely essential in the interests of efficiency. It had a number of functions besides the primary

one of providing relief for the sick poor. It was important as a centre for consultation with general and panel practitioners who could thus obtain an opinion by letter, and some 60 per cent. of the out-patients were sent to the hospital with that object; it also had great scope as a teaching centre, for the patients seen there were much more like those seen in ordinary practice than those admitted to the wards, who were usually in a more advanced state of disease, and therefore less amenable to cure than to temporary relief. The outpatient on the other hand was in the position to benefit from the highest form of medicine, the prevention of disease.

In the new out-patient department, which is connected by a corridor with the main building provision has been made for five different sections: medical, surgical, gynaecological, ophthalmic, and throat, ear, and nose, and in connection with the ophthalmic section five dark rooms for eye-testing have been constructed under the road.

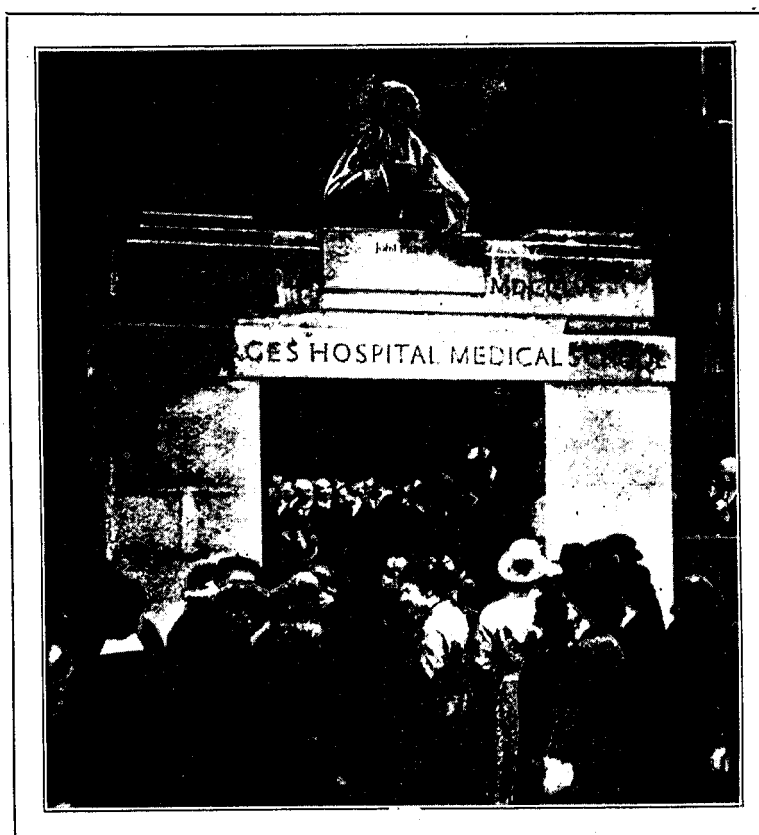
The commodious and up-to-date operating theatre with waiting and recovery rooms, is lined with white and green tiles, the corners are rounded, the doors of teak, flush with the walls, there is a large electric steriliser. The dental room, when not in use for this purpose, is used as an ante-natal department. There are rooms for the medical staff in each section, where they can see their patients, and dressing-rooms for the patients in connection with them. Thus the whole section is very complete.

The nursing staff for this section of the hospital consists of a sister, two staff nurses, and three probationers, for whom it must be a pleasure, as well as a very illuminating experience, to work in so up-to-date a department.

The hospital is fortunate in its secretary, Mr. J. M. Churchfield, who receives visitors thereto with the greatest courtesy and spares no pains to provide them with the information they desire. I had also the advantage of the kindly guidance of the Assistant Matron as a cicerone. M. B.

THE NEW WARD AT THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, CHELSEA.

The new ward at the Victoria Hospital for Children, Tite Street, Chelsea, where children who have been operated on for the removal of tonsils or adenoids, is important as setting an example of a very necessary provision in hospital accommodation. The majority of children so treated in London hospitals are only kept in for an hour or two, and then sent home. Contrast this with the care bestowed on such cases in a private house, the even temperature of the



THE BUST OF JOHN HUNTER.
Famous Surgeon and Anatomist. Unveiling at St. George's Hospital.

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