

## THE CANTONAL HOSPITAL, GENEVA.

The Cantonal Hospital, the large General Hospital of Geneva which by invitation was visited by many members of the International Conference of Nurses last year contains some 835 beds, including the Annexes for Maternity, Ophthalmic, Skin, and Infants' Departments.

It stands in its own grounds, well back from the road, like a citadel of defence against disease and death. A notice board, with the words, "Respecter le Repos des Malades," emphasises the approach to the hospital, and it sounds the characteristic note of the homely, thoughtful, atmosphere which pervaded the wards. Our correspondent writes:—

The nursing staff consists of Deaconesses and trained nurses, with assistants. We had the privilege of being shown round by the Head Nurse of the Surgical Wards, Miss F. Kuiner, who was indefatigable in keeping her large party of visitors intensely interested as we passed through long corridors, wards, a magnificent kitchen, lecture rooms, dispensary, and other well-equipped departments for dental treatment, x-ray, and electrical work, and a most up-to-date theatre.

In the corridors, we saw the comfortable looking stretchers fitted up with white pillows and sheets, nearly as inviting as the well-sprung beds, with their mattresses quite 8 ins. in depth, large pillows, and white coverlets, which gave a restful appearance in the wards.

The surgical side of the hospital has been cleverly modernised. Here were rounded corners, and walls of white washable paint, while in some wards daintily designed friezes in delicate shades of distemper introduced a cheerful note.

A thoughtful touch was the use of single rooms opposite the larger wards for acute cases. These rooms were simply and efficiently equipped, while panes of glass had been introduced into the upper panel of the doors of the rooms for the better surveillance by the nursing staff of these patients.

A capital labour-saving and economical machine for cutting bandages was in use as we passed through one corridor. The man who was regulating the machine told us it could cut up 250 yards of white gauze into rolls of bandages, varying in width from an inch to seven inches, and in the few minutes we stood and watched it was possible to see tautly rolled bandages in vast numbers being piled up.

Another clever framework was an apparatus for raising the ends of a bed, which our guide told us she found of very great comfort both for the patient and the nursing staff.

In this well regulated State hospital were constant reminders, through legacies and gifts, of the place it holds in the hearts of the people of Geneva. In the corridors were original and other paintings, gifts sometimes by the artists themselves, sometimes the gifts of famous citizens of the town, and in one case the painting had been presented by the artist's family.

While turning another corner, we noted an automatic machine for obtaining postcards and stamps had been so wisely introduced. How often patients just long for something on which to send a message home, and here the need is met without further ado.

Another feature of the characteristic amount of thoughtful detail for the well-being of the patients was the setting aside of two rooms for relatives of serious cases whose names would be on what we should call the "danger list."

In circumstances where it would be impossible for the relatives to be sent for within a short time, they can be comfortably lodged at the hospital.

We left our guide with profuse thanks murmured in many languages by that large party she had so cleverly steered through the intricate windings of that splendid hospital.

G. L. E. G.

### The Ophthalmic Clinic.

Conducted by a young member of the staff in her attractive dark grey linen overall with white collar, white tie and cuffs and gloves, we were shown over the Clinique Ophthalmologique. This is one of the Special Clinics attached to the Hospital Cantonal.

This Clinic, as its name implies, is entirely for the treatment of eyes, and has accommodation for 50 patients. The 50 beds are not always full, as a great number of those treated are out-patients.

The Clinic is self-contained in so far as it has within the building everything necessary for carrying on this special work. An airy waiting room, well installed examination and sight testing rooms, equipped with all the most up-to-date apparatus. There is also a light sunny laboratory where analysis of every kind necessary in the treatment of eyes can be carried on.

The wards are small, none contain more than four beds; all looked spotlessly clean and comfortable. The doors and windows are all fitted with yellow tinted glass. There is also a day room where all patients who are able to be up take their meals.

The operating section is perfect for the work, with its treatment, dressing, anæsthetic and sterilising rooms grouped round a fine theatre. Special mention must be made of the lighting of the theatre: this is a central bracket with a number of arms in which are concealed small but powerful light bulbs. On the extreme end of each arm is a small adjustable mirror so that the entire lighting is from reflection, which is specially adapted to eye work. The Clinic impressed one as being thoroughly efficient for the work required of it which is what one would expect in a country famous for its ophthalmic surgeons.

E. J. H.

### The Maternity Clinic.

The maternity section is a fine stone building containing some 50 beds. We were conducted through the wards, which are classified according to the means of the patients.

In Class No. I Wards the Doctors' private patients are treated.

All the wards were extremely bright and airy; the infants looking very sweet in their little cots, where each tiny face is protected from flies by a muslin, covering the whole of the cot.

The nursing staff looked spotless and workmanlike in white uniform, shoes and stockings, and pretty book muslin caps.

We noticed the large wards appeared to be full, the general atmosphere was one of brightness and the patients looked most happy and cheerful in their beautiful surroundings.

The decorations generally were white and cream, and the corridors were wide and spacious, where groups of lovely flowers and plants were effectively arranged to the best advantage.

Class No. II Wards are for the accommodation of middle class people who can afford moderate fees, and contain two or three beds.

Wards in Class No. III have eight beds in each, and are used for the poorest patients, who pay the lowest fee.

A. S. B.

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