

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The new block at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., which will provide six self-contained suites for major operations, and make provision for 250 beds, is now nearing completion. The unit on the ground floor is now on view to the public, who are taking advantage of the opportunity of seeing it to the number of some 500 persons a day. The wards are of an unusual shape, being almost square, with a light division up the middle permitting of four rows of beds, all easily under the inspection of the Sister at one time. Light and air are freely admitted by tall windows, which swing open on central axes so that the whole window space can be open to the air. Each ward is provided with one bedstead seven feet long, which has received the name of "Long Tom," for the comfort of patients over six feet tall; lockers are of the usual type, and there are stools of stained wood with rubber tops for the use of visitors. The beds are provided with the blue and white check curtains familiar to Bart's nurses, which can be drawn round a patient when privacy is required, but we note that the "curtain tops" are lower than heretofore, so that the problem of cleaning them, which involved probationers in expert gymnastics, will not be so acute as hitherto. A switchboard beside each bed can be employed either for special examination lamps, for a portable X-ray apparatus, or for wireless headphones. Coloured lights operated from the bedside replace bells to summon doctors and nurses throughout the building. It is somewhat surprising that the wards are absolutely barren of cupboards, with the exception of a poison cupboard, which has glass doors and is flush with the wall. An electric light inside can be turned on without opening the doors. Though cupboards standing out into the ward should no doubt be abolished, there would seem no reason why they should not be provided on the same principle as the poison cupboard, and this would certainly expedite the ward work.

All the necessary annexes are arranged off the corridor leading to the ward, including a small ward for particularly serious cases. Further, there are dormitories, where relatives and friends may, if necessary, pass the night, and canteens from which food and hot drinks can be obtained, these having been provided by the generosity of the Smithfield butchers.

There is a room for the Sister in connection with each unit and there are cloak rooms for the nurses.

The wards and corridors are heated by steam tubes incorporated in the walls but there are gas fires at the further end of each ward, round which convalescent patients can foregather.

The operating theatre of each unit has a series of annexes for the use of surgeons, nurses and dressers, in preparing themselves before entering the theatre, and there is an observation gallery behind a glass screen for senior students, an adjustable table and a large shadowless lamp above it form practically the only furniture in the theatre. Anaesthetics are supplied through tubes from containers in the basement, and there is a short concrete pillar near the operating table on which necessary things are assembled. In a case of urgency, a theatre can be warmed in five minutes by filtered air driven across radiators by big fans.

Let into the wall near the operating table are three panels for the illumination of X-ray negatives.

A thoughtful provision is that the way into the theatre is different to the way out, so that a patient about to be operated upon cannot be distressed by the sight of one who has just undergone this ordeal.

Very interesting is the medical exhibit in an empty ward illustrating the history of medicine from the earliest times by means of pictures, models, instruments and

so forth. Repulsive-looking medicine men, a plague doctor, with his long false nose filled with cosmetics as preventives against infection, coloured models of a wounded soldier and a shipwrecked sailor, almost life size, originally used to solicit alms for the Hospital, and afterwards as ornaments in the Steward's Office. There are various types of beds also used in the Hospital, from the rush bed on the floor of the time of Rahere with a monk bending anxiously over the patient, to the comfortable bedstead and mattress of the present day. The block is in charge of Sister K. Lowe, R.R.C. Happy the visitor who inspects its wonders under her guidance.

The King and Queen paid a visit on April 9th to King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor, when they were received by the Matron, Miss Morris, and the Secretary, Colonel A. E. Churcher. Their Majesties visited all the wards, and spoke to most of the patients, and to their visitors, it being visiting day. The Queen presented a number of books to the Nurses' Library.

Prince George in declaring open the Blgrave Branch of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, recently, did so with the following words:—

"I declare this the Blgrave Branch of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, open in the firm conviction that the generosity of the public of Reading will ensure that its doors will always remain open, and as I am sure that this key with which I have opened the hospital will never be needed again, I will keep it as a memento of an enjoyable visit."

Princess Mary, Countess of Harewood, has consented to open the extension of the Northwood and Pinner Hospital on June 23rd. The sum of £10,000 is still required.

Princess Beatrice will lay the foundation stone of the new buildings of the Kensington, Fulham and Chelsea General Hospital, Finborough-road, Earl's Court, S.W., on May 29th. The new buildings will cost £70,000.

A Post-graduate Medical School is to be established in connection with the Hammersmith Hospital, Duane Road, Hammersmith, in connection with a practical scheme of post graduate medical education, towards which the Government will give £250,000.

A meeting in aid of the Marie Curie Hospital, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, will be held at the Mansion House on May 9th when the Lord Mayor will preside.

The Grand Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign have approved the following grants:—

£2,500 to St. Bartholomew's Hospital towards the maintenance of its cancer research work for the year 1930, which will include the continuance and development of investigations into the Deep X-ray treatment of cancer in certain sites of the body, and the further study of malignant growths by slow-motion picture photography, which is now known as the "Canti Film";

£950 to St. Mark's Hospital towards the maintenance of its cancer research work;

£200, making a total grant of £300, to the Yorkshire Council of the Campaign towards a special statistical inquiry carried out by it into the incidence of cancer as divulged by post-mortem investigations made at some of the principal Yorkshire, Scottish, and London hospitals.

The Council has also confirmed the grant arranged by the Finance Committee of £3,900 to the Middlesex Hospital towards the maintenance of its cancer research work for the year 1929-30.

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