

Heating and ventilation, as would be expected, have here been subjects of particular care. Air enters through oil filters, and reaches the Operating Theatre both clean and warm, and ether is scientifically encouraged to make a quick escape.

There is no door—just an archway—between the Operating Theatre and the sterilising room; the sterilisers are built into a counter and worked by electricity which is easy to manipulate and gives no fumes.

#### Control of Temperature.

As in other departments, special attention was given to the system of heating to be employed. It was obvious that in any large building of this kind a method of central heating was essential, and the ordinary type of radiator was not considered entirely suitable for the conditions to be met for hospital service on the very modern lines now being undertaken.

Even temperature, and the avoidance of over-heating or under-heating as may sometimes be the case, in different areas of an apartment, and also the elimination of "dirt-traps," brought about by draughts due to the convection of heat, were the objectives taken into account. Investigation into these matters, of great importance in hospital planning and administration, lead to the adoption of a system of panel heating which the engineers claim to be a perfect method of radiating heat on the same principle of equalised distribution as by the transmission of light by the rays of the sun.

Another advantage of this panel heating which, it is said, is particularly suitable for high grade buildings, is that radiation on this method requires a temperature of only 100 deg. to 105 deg. F., as against a temperature for convection of 150 deg. to 180 deg. F. This enables an important saving in fuel consumption, a point of particular significance in hospital economics.

In the Stewart Memorial, to give the extensions at Harrow Hospital their official name, domestic fuel oil is the heating agent, and there is no waste of fuel; when the water in the boilers reaches a temperature slightly in excess of that which is necessary, the burners are shut down automatically. The water in the boiler circulates through heat exchangers in connection with the warming and hot water supply, each thermostatically controlled, so that any variation in the temperature of the warming apparatus or the hot water service may be arranged without altering the setting of the boiler from the most efficient adjustment.

Not only is the temperature of the Stewart Memorial so perfectly controlled at source and at centres of distribution, but magnetic valves set in metal boxes here and there on the walls permit of the regulation of temperature in a given space to within 1 deg. F., and the greatest comfort is ensured by this means as well as economy to the last degree.

#### X-Ray Department.

The new X-Ray Department, for which, owing to variation of levels in the site, the foundations had to be laid 6 feet deeper at one end than the other, will cost £1,000 for the building and the same sum for apparatus to be provided as a donation from a famous manufacturing firm in the vicinity. The walls of this department, it is interesting to note, have to be insulated with barium or lead to confine the rays within prescribed limits—X-rays, as is well understood, can be very detrimental, unless their action is under expert supervision.

For the first time, coinciding with these large extensions, the Harrow Hospital will have its own Consulting Radiologist.

#### Other Points of Interest.

In addition to the main features already detailed, there are many points of interest that will contribute to the

efficiency of administration and the amenities of the patients. These include:—

Electric lifts to all floors, capable of taking bed, patient, nurse, and attendants; that is to say, the entire entourage of the patient.

Soiled linen chute, opening on each floor, and delivering into small room at base, immediately opposite washing-out room, where linen is dealt with before it goes to main laundry outside. No germ-laden linen need be carried through corridors.

Running water in wards to enable surgeon to wash immediately before and after handling patient. There is thus no contact with the door-handle.

Elbow levers in place of ordinary taps give control of water supply where necessary. This leaves both hands free.

Each bed is provided at the side with its own switchboard, carrying switch for bed-light, bell-push to call nurse, plug for wireless earphones, and plug for inspection lamp.

Rounded corners to windows and doors without panels to avoid dust, no visible pipes; the latter are built into the wall and equipped with inspection doors. This arrangement gives protection for pipes, maintains warmth, and safeguards against dust.

### AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT.

Miss Margaret Mellis Sim, on the recommendation of the British College of Nurses, has been appointed Matron of St. John's Mental Hospital, Newfoundland.

Miss Sim was trained at the City Hospital, Edinburgh; Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Woodilee Mental Hospital, Glasgow, and the Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow. She is a State Registered Nurse and holds the C.M.B. Certificate (Scotland).

She has held the posts of Sister, City Hospital, Edinburgh; Assistant Matron, Woodilee Mental Hospital, Glasgow; Matron, Riccarton Mental Hospital, Paisley; Assistant Matron, Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow, and Matron, Maternity Hospital, Dumfries. Miss Sim has a wide experience, and is well qualified for this responsible position. Her appointment will be a popular one, and she carries with her the good wishes of her friends in the nursing world.

### GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., LL.D., occupied the Chair and 13 Members of the Council were present, at the meeting of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, held at 18, Melville Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, January 23rd, 1931.

Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., LL.D., was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year, and Col. D. J. Mackintosh, C.B., M.V.O., was re-elected Vice-Chairman.

The Committees for the year were also appointed under the following Conveners:—

The Education and Examination Committee:—Convener, Col. D. J. Mackintosh.

Finance Committee:—Convener, Sir John Lorne MacLeod.

Uniform Committee:—Convener, Miss M. M. White.

Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee:—Convener, Dr. R. C. Buist.

The Report of the Education and Examination Committee was approved, and arrangements in regard to the Oral Examinations in February were approved in accordance with the recommendations.

The Report of the Auditor appointed by the Department of Health on the Council's accounts for the year to December 31st, 1930, was submitted, and the Council went over a draft of their Annual Report to the Department under the Nurses' Registration Act and approved of this.

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