

## WHERE TO GO.

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## Birmingham Hospitals.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

IT is the purpose, as it will be the pleasure, of my pen, to bring before the notice of the readers of our Journal the Hospitals of our Midland capital, with especial reference to the Nurse's life and work in each. I shall also touch upon those modern advances in structure and sanitation that so materially aid the nursing duties of to-day and add to the comfort and promote the well-doing of our sick.

We will begin with the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, that six or seven years ago was built, with thoughtful care and unstinted munificence, for its special purpose.

The first idea that occurs to us as we enter the handsome and spacious entrance hall, with its tessellated pavement, marble pillars, and wide stone staircase, flanked by large brass gas standards with numerous burners, is that we have strayed into a gentleman's mansion and are not in a Hospital

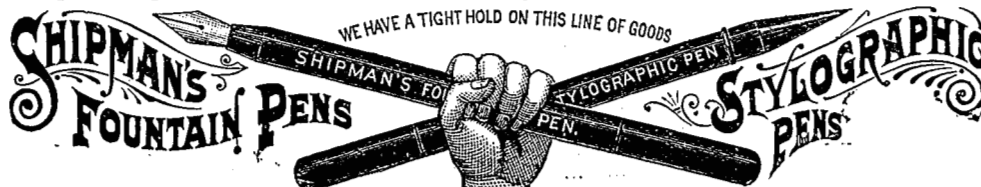
at all. Ascending the first few steps of the staircase we come to a wide landing, where the staircase, with its handsome ornamental metal balustrades and broad, mahogany hand-rail branches off on either side of us, and lead us to the first-floor corridor, which is well-lighted by large and lofty windows. The first room we enter is the handsome private apartment of our hostess—I am not quite disillusioned yet—I mean the Matron, who is going to show us over her own domain and all things appertaining thereunto.

The interior arrangements of the building are somewhat different to those of general Hospitals, as there are no Wards, commonly so-called, the patients being, for the most part, able to sit up all day. There are dormitories and day-rooms instead, which are kept apart for the use of the male and female patients respectively, the children sharing with the latter. The walls of the bedrooms are distempred in pale blue and dadoed with oak; the window-blinds are dark blue holland, kept down in the day-time when any of the beds are occupied; the floors are parquetered, not planked, hence there are no cracks for dust and dirt to lodge in. This admirable flooring prevails throughout all the rooms occupied by the patients, whether by day or night. It is kept in a high state of cultivation (?) by a certain composition made up by the Matron's direction, but as I do not feel quite sure that I am at liberty to divulge the secret (?) I must leave my Hospital readers to guess it. The composition is put on by the Wardswomen, the polish is given by men who use brushes set apart for the purpose, the result of the mental and manual power brought to bear upon the matter, is a beautifully smooth and shining floor, and perfect cleanliness.

The dormitories are not all of a size, in some there are six or seven beds, in others only three or four, or two or three, and in the isolation room there is only one bed. The windows, large and lofty, are on one side of the rooms, and not at right angles, as in ordinary Wards, and the light subdued

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