

BETHLEM ROYAL HOSPITAL, MONK'S ORCHARD, BECKENHAM.

Of late years great efforts have been made to bring the treatment of patients suffering from nervous and mental symptoms, however varied in type, on to a more enlightened plane and so dispel the old prejudices that have so long prevailed.

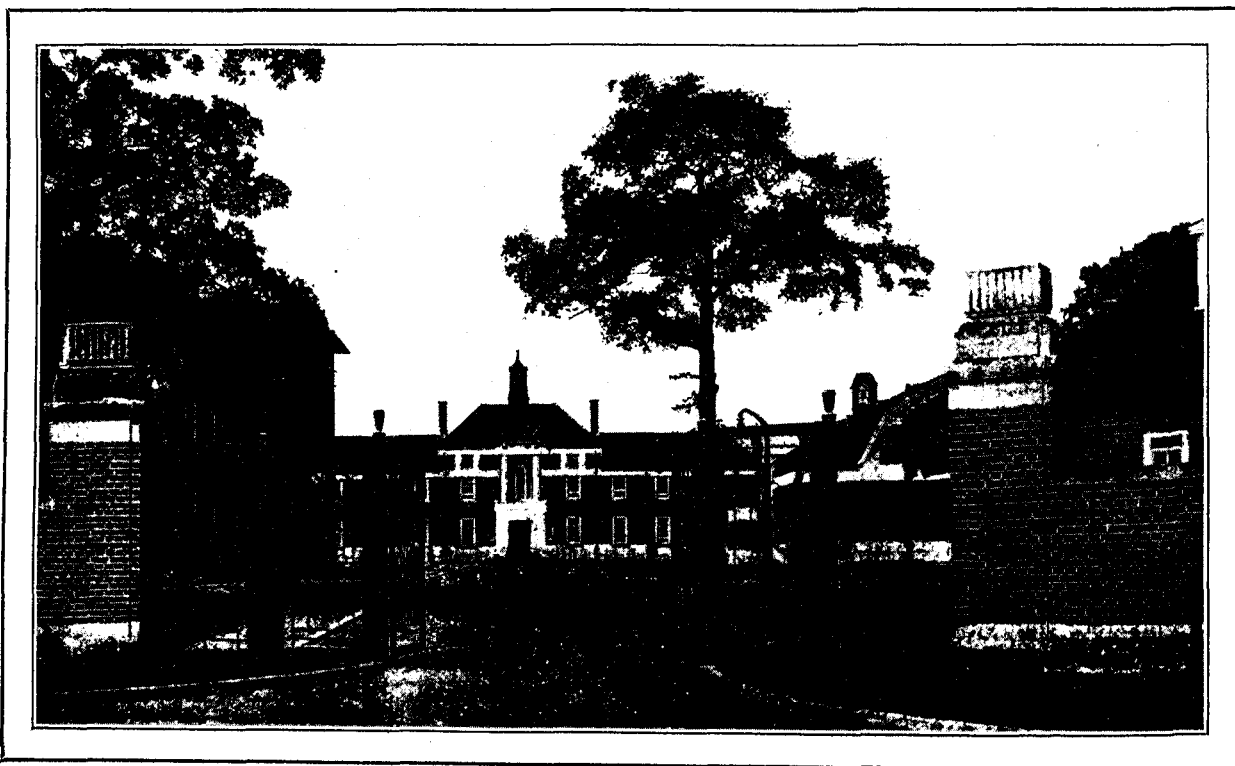
In the result new systems have been evolved, and in the new Bethlem Royal Hospital, erected some two years ago in open park and woodland surroundings at Monk's Orchard, Beckenham, there is evidence of outstanding achievement, and on October 26th it was the privilege of the Fellows and Members taking the Administration Course of the British College of Nurses to visit the Hospital.

A short walk from Eden Park Station brings the visitor

has a separate bedroom and no difference as to care and treatment is made as between patients contributing towards the cost of treatment and maintenance and those accepted on a non-contributory basis.

The Physician-Superintendent traced the history of the Hospital from its inception in 1247 and its association in the Charter of Henry VIII with its sister Royal Hospital, St. Bartholomew's, and directed attention to the sites of former hospitals, the first of which was located near the present Liverpool Street Station, the second near London Wall, now the site of Finsbury Circus, and the third in the Lambeth Road—portions of this latter hospital are still standing.

He drew particular attention to the efforts in this Hospital to effect cures and reminded us that wherever the word Bethlem is used it means "Curable." He expressed the hope that the nursing profession will realise that the



THE ENTRANCE, BETHLEM ROYAL HOSPITAL.

to the wide gateway entrance to the Hospital and on passing through to the Administration Block the Hospital Chapel, the gift of Lady Wakefield, is on the right and the Nurses' Home on the left.

The portal of the Administration Block gives entrance to a spacious hall floored with Travertine marble, and a wide staircase right and left gives access to the upper floor, where we were most kindly received by the Matron, Miss Hearder, who led the way to the beautiful Board Room. Here the class was most courteously welcomed by the Physician-Superintendent, Dr. J. G. Porter Phillips, who in a short and instructive address explained the ideals of the governing body which gave impetus to and made possible the erection of this new home for the Hospital in its absolutely rural surroundings.

A special and peculiar feature is made evident by the provision of separate units or buildings which each function as an independent reception hospital, an asset of enormous value which belongs to this hospital alone. Each patient

nursing of nervous and mental cases called for a very high degree of skill and proper training, and in his view should eventually take its place in the curriculum for the general training of nurses. He referred to the idea widely held that those in constant contact with mental patients may become similarly affected, and stated that in his long experience he had never known of such a case.

Whilst in the Board Room the party signed the Visitors' Book, and before leaving we noticed that the walls were adorned with the Arms of past Presidents and Treasurers, dating from the year 1557, and also paintings of Henry VIII (the Charter King), Queen Mary by David Jagger, recently presented by Lord Wakefield of Hythe, President of the Hospital, and a painting of Sir Lionel Faudel-Phillips, Bart., the Treasurer, by Oswald Birley.

On the same floor as the Board Room is a dining-room, available for the Committee of the Hospital when in attendance for the business of the institution, and also

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)