

THE CROYDON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

THE CHARLES HEATH CLARK MEMORIAL NEW HOME FOR NURSES.

The story of the Croydon General Hospital since its foundation is one of continual progress, the latest evidence of which is the opening of the Charles Heath Clark Memorial Home for Nurses on February 9th.

The Opening Ceremony.

The opening ceremony was to have been performed by Miss Heath Clark, but owing to indisposition she was unfortunately unable to be present, and her place was taken by Lady Brown, wife of Sir Herbert Brown, K.B.E., Chairman of the Board of Management.

The guests assembled in the Outpatient Hall, and amongst those present were the Bishop of Croydon, the Mayor of Croydon (Alderman W. Peet) and Mrs. Peet, the Deputy Mayor (Alderman T. A. Lewis) and Mrs. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. H. Berney, Members of the Committee of Management, of the Hon. Medical Staff, the Matron (Miss C. L. Keys-Wells, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.) and the House Governor and Secretary (Mr. G. H. Dams). Most of the Matrons of the Hospitals in the surrounding district were also present for a very friendly feeling exists between the Hospital Matrons in this neighbourhood.

The ceremony opened with the singing of the National Anthem, and then before proceeding to the New Home in Lennard Road, at the back of the Hospital, the Chairman made a brief speech in which he thanked the Mayor of Croydon for his presence and expressed the great regret of the Board of Management that Miss Heath Clark was unable, owing to an attack of influenza, to perform the Opening Ceremony. Lady Brown had consented to take her place, the condition she imposed being that she "could not and would not make a speech." Sir Herbert Brown then gave a short survey of the chief events in the history of the Hospital.

The Croydon Hospital was founded in 1867 and was at first carried on in a portion of a building which formerly stood in Duppas Hill Lane, which had previously been part of the old Croydon Workhouse Infirmary. The accommodation was too limited, even in those days, to adequately serve the needs of the town, and in 1873 the Hospital Committee purchased a mansion known as Oakfield Lodge, which they converted into the present Hospital. After considerable alterations had been carried out the Hospital was opened by the then Archbishop of Canter-

bury on September 27th, 1873. In 1883 the Royal Alfred Wing was added, the memorial stone being laid by the late Duke of Edinburgh.

The next extension, on the east side, was opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury on October 13th, 1894. In 1911, as the outcome of a public fund initiated by the then Mayor of Croydon (Ald. Trumble), the northern extensions were built as a memorial to King Edward the Seventh. X-ray, Massage and Electrical treatment Departments were added in 1912. The present commodious out-patients' block, pathological laboratory, etc., were erected and equipped at a total cost of £75,500 and opened by the late Archbishop of Canterbury (Archbishop Lord Davidson) on June 25th, 1927, when the King and Queen were present, the beautiful centre light of the window on the main staircase being subsequently placed there in commemoration of this event.

Further Extension Contemplated.

Having regard to the very urgent need for additional

accommodation for In-patients and for "pay" bed accommodation a further extension of the Hospital is being considered, now that the Nurses' Home has been completed.

To enable the Hospital to carry out the proposed Extension and to clear off the existing debt of £4,700 on the old Reconstruction Fund a sum of £20,000 is required. Further, if the proposed Extension is carried out it is

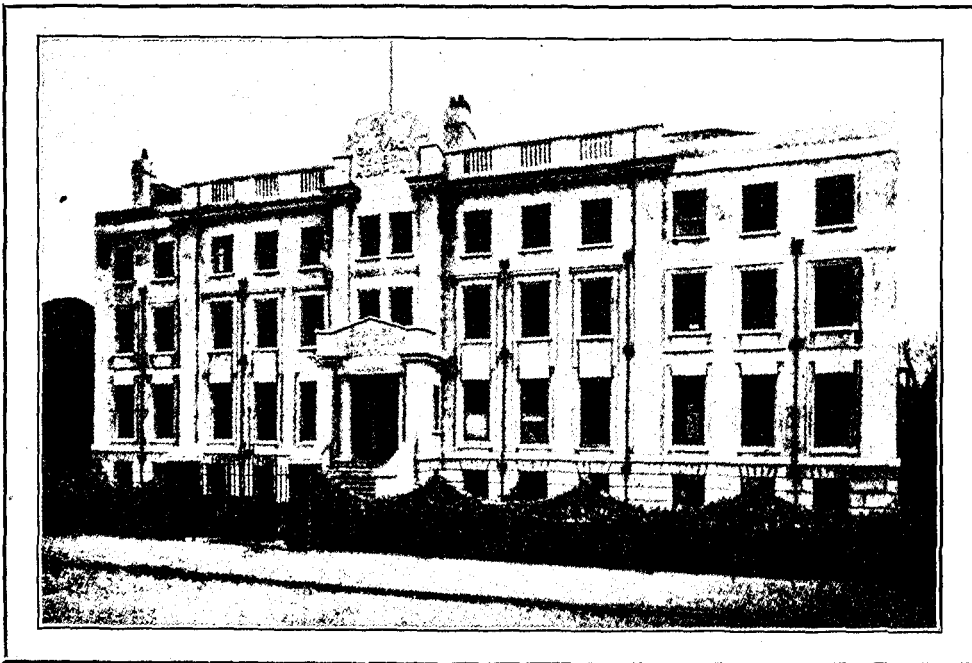
estimated that a further annual income of between £5,000 and £6,000 will be required. The Board of Management are confident that the friends of the Hospital who have supported it so generously in the past will support this new enterprise.

Last year 1,947 Inpatients were admitted and 30,328 new Outpatients treated. The Outpatient attendances were 126,655—figures which give some idea of the work accomplished by this busy Hospital.

Charles Heath Clark Memorial New Home for Nurses.

Those present then proceeded to the Charles Heath Clark Memorial Home for Nurses. This was previously one detached and two semi-detached houses, which were purchased by the Hospital a few years ago at a cost of £2,300, and have now been entirely reconstructed and admirably adapted and furnished at a cost of approximately £20,000. This was made possible by the very handsome bequest of £10,000 received from the executors of the late Mr. Charles Heath Clark, at one time a member of the Board of Management, and the Home is erected as a Memorial to him.

Members of the Nursing Staff and friends of the Hospital



The Charles Heath Clark Memorial Home for Nurses, Croydon General Hospital.

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