

hourly during the day, none are given between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.; if mothers cannot feed their babies, peptonised milk is frequently the substitute, and for use at home Sunshine Glaxo is usually recommended.

While in hospital, all clothing is provided; the napkins are of gamgee wool and burnt to avoid washing. A patient has only to provide an outfit for herself and baby on leaving.

On the second floor, we now come to the labour room, so bright and sunny with most modern equipment—basin with hot and cold water supply, surgical instrument electric sterilizer, so constructed that it cannot boil dry! From this room we pass into a small wing in which is a pleasant room, occupied by waiting mothers; the bathroom and an apartment for sterilizing bedpans; these are sterilized every time they are used.

Leaving "Invermead," a covered way brings us to the Isolation Block.

#### The Isolation Block.

"A new era in the history of the Hospital was inaugurated when the Isolation Block for Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia, and the Research Laboratory in connection with it, were completed upon the new site in Hammersmith."

The Isolation Block, designed to accommodate some 30 patients, was opened on July 10th, 1930, by H.R.H. the Princess Royal (then Princess Mary, Countess of Harewood). This three-storied building has also balconies running its whole length and faces due south. On entering the black and white terrazzo tiled hall and corridors, the former colour forming the surround, has a most admirable effect.

For the treatment and intensive investigation of Puerperal Fever, mothers and babies are nursed apart, the Mothers' Ward and Babies' Nursery being therefore situated at the opposite end of each storey; small Private Wards stand in between, all these apartments providing the joy of sunny balconies, where patients may bask. The wards have parquet floors, and the modern panelless mahogany doors are designed with the novel feature of a small circular window inset with shutter, which when drawn across the window indicates that entrance is not permissible.

The special obstetric bed for douching purposes was of great interest. To avoid disturbing the patient, the mattress is in two halves and the bedstead constructed to divide at the middle and the bottom half will swing away leaving ample space for a vessel to be placed to receive the douche as it passes off. During this process the patient's feet are slipped into stirrups.

Next came the sterilizing room where bedpans are sterilized and kept in heated racks; and then a room which is constructed for isolation purposes. Here premature babies are snug in their cots with electric blankets, which are manipulated by switches.

We then enter a very fine lift and reach the upper floors. Here it is explained that every patient has a private room or ward until the germ from which she is suffering is discovered.

The fine operating theatre with all the modern appliances and accessory apartments is beautifully appointed, and the small kitchen where crockery is sterilized, is the last word in cleanliness.

The Nurses' Home for the Isolation Block, "Oakbrook House," the largest house on the new site which adjoins the Isolation Block and "Invermead" has been adapted and thoroughly renovated for use as a Nurses' Home, to accommodate the nursing staff employed in the Isolation Block.

The Central Kitchens are here, and all food for the Isolation Block and "Invermead" is cooked here and

conveyed by electrically heated food trolleys, passing along covered ways to the two hospitals. A total of 22 nursing and domestic staff reside here.

This charming old house with its many-pinnacled gables, its ample entrance hall where linen fold carved doors swing under pointed arches and quaint stairways leading in various directions to sunny apartments is ideal for rest from duty. For here the "atmosphere" of a bygone time when the landed classes and those who worked with them knew the delight of a rich, lovely and rural England, is recaptured, and added to the knowledge that Disraeli was wont to visit Oakbrook Lodge, lends a touch of romance as we pass through the stately dining-room and then to the drawing-room, now the nurses' sitting-room, with a fine grand piano and every comfort, and the billiard room now converted into a maids' dormitory.

At the conclusion of our tour the Sister in Charge invited the class to have a sumptuous tea in her delightful sitting-room, where she drew attention to an interesting photograph of the Duchess of York when she visited the Hospital.

We learnt that all the nurses and pupil nurses in the Hospital are registered on the General Part of the State Register for England and Wales.

All present expressed appreciation of the great kindness of the Matron, Miss Dare, who was unavoidably prevented from being present, in so arranging for this most instructive tour of the Hospital. She is to be congratulated on the splendid campaign for the health of this and future generations, rendered possible by the skill and efficiency of the nursing staff.

The fame of Queen Charlotte's Hospital has been worldwide for many generations; and its highly skilled pupils have gone forth to minister to mothers and babes in all parts of the Empire.

ALICE S. BRYSON.

### HISTORIC ROYAL NURSES.

The following are the eight "Historic Royal Nurses" who are to be represented in period costume at the History Dinner of the British College of Nurses, on May 4th, at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W., and on July 11th, in the Tableau at the Congress of the International Council of Nurses in Paris:—

#### THE EMPRESS HELENA.

The Empress Helena (Saint) (3rd century), the First Christian Empress, was the widow of Constantius Chlorus and the mother of Constantine the Great. She was almost certainly of British birth. She became a convert to Christianity late in life and when about eighty years of age made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. On the road to the Holy City she built hospitals or hospices for pilgrims and the sick and, at Jerusalem, near what she believed to be the site of the True Cross, she built a hospital.

#### QUEEN MARGARET OF SCOTLAND.

Queen Margaret of Scotland (11th century) was the daughter of Edward the Atheling and a direct descendant of Alfred the Great; she married Malcolm Canmore, King of Scotland. During her reign she did much to improve Church and Court in her husband's kingdom and brought about many reforms calculated to improve the conditions of the people. She was a patroness of learning and the arts. Tradition tells that she nursed the leprosy and the plague stricken and is said to have founded a Leper Hospital, St. Leonard's, in St. Andrews. According to the record left by her confessor she fed and clothed the poor and she was probably the first infant welfare worker in Great Britain. She anticipated John Howard and Elizabeth Fry by over eight centuries in her efforts to improve prison conditions.

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