

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL MENTAL HOSPITAL, SHENLEY.

The King, who was accompanied by the Queen, formally opened, on May 31, the first section of the Middlesex County Council Mental Hospital, in Hertfordshire. It is the latest example of a hospital planned for treatment, with the ultimate object of cure, instead of an asylum for the detention and care of the mentally afflicted, and is placed in lovely surroundings on an estate 420 feet above sea level, with extensive views of the surrounding county.

Their Majesties, who travelled down from Buckingham Palace by road, were received by Lord Hampden, Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, who presented Mr. Howard S. Button, Chairman of the County Council, Sir William Lobjoit, Chairman of the Mental Hospital Committee, who laid the foundation stone of the hospital two years ago, and Mr. L. G. Brock, C.B., Chairman of the Board of Control.

The Hospital, as explained by Sir William Lobjoit in his address of welcome to their Majesties, is the first public mental hospital to be designed and opened since the War, and has been erected by the Middlesex County Council at a cost of £520,000. The present buildings will accommodate 1,046 patients and will ultimately be able to receive 2,000 cases. It has been designed on the villa plan, and includes convalescent units, and extends facilities for treatment without certification so as to enlarge the opportunities for voluntary treatment. The authorities hope not only to relieve much suffering but to develop the treatment of mental illness on the most enlightened lines.

NOTABLE ADVANCES.

The King replying to the address, said:—

"I thank you for your loyal and dutiful address, and I assure you that it is a pleasure to the Queen and myself to be present here to-day at the inauguration of the Shenley Mental Hospital.

"I particularly welcome this opportunity of expressing my interest in the mental health service and my admiration for the devotion and skill of those engaged in this all-important work.

"In recent years notable advances have been made in the guardianship and care of those suffering from infirmity of mind, and the Act to which you have referred has enlarged the opportunities of adopting modern methods. These new powers, I feel confident, will be well applied, and I therefore note with satisfaction that, in designing this hospital, you have paid special regard to the treatment of the illness in its early stages by the addition of a reception hospital, which I look forward to seeing to-day.

"I am gratified to know that a nurses' home has been included in the building scheme. The existence of such amenities not only contributes to the contentment and well-being of the nurses, but has undoubted influence upon the recruitment of this essential branch of the hospital staff.

"I congratulate the Middlesex County Hospital, the Visiting Committee, and the Board of Control upon the manner in which this great enterprise has been conceived and carried out. I trust that, under God's blessing, this hospital may prove to be truly a place of healing, and that these beautiful surroundings, with every facility for occupation and enjoyment, may help and inspire alike patients and workers. I have much pleasure in declaring the Shenley Mental Hospital open."

The King and Queen then inspected the buildings and the Queen expressed her admiration of the Nurses' Home. Amongst those who were honoured by presentation to their Majesties were Dr. G. W. Shore, Medical Superintendent, and Miss Bessie Tweddle, the Matron.

Three members of the Royal Family will attend the Voluntary Hospitals Conference in London this month. The Prince of Wales will declare the conference open on June 13th, at the Guildhall, and on the same day Prince Arthur of Connaught will preside at the first session. The Duke of York will preside at the Conference Dinner at the Guildhall on June 14th.

Presiding at the Court of Governors of St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, recently, Prince George said, "I want to advertise as widely as possible that our site is for sale. I also want to impress upon you that we cannot wait much longer, that the time has come when we must have a new home as our building is rapidly becoming so out of date that soon it will be impossible to keep pace with other hospitals with modern buildings and equipment." At the conclusion of the proceedings, the Prince presented the gold medal awarded to the best nurse of the year to Nurse Kathleen Gertrude Wilkins.

There should surely be no difficulty in disposing of the site of the hospital, in such a supreme position, for a sum which will enable the Committee to secure a new site and to build and equip an up-to-date hospital on a site not far from the present one.

The Princess Royal, President of the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, contributes the following message to the "Infants' Newspaper," a publication which has made its appearance for one issue only:—

"I am very glad to commend the cause which is advocated by the 'Infants' Newspaper.' I hope that every reader will be stirred by the account given of its valuable work, and of the 13,000 little patients who are cared for every year in the hospital itself, and in the out-patients' department; and will feel inspired to help forward its progress and development."

The paper is designed as an appeal for help in extending the work of the only hospital in the world devoted solely to the care of infants under five years old.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, of which he is chairman, the Earl of Harewood said the fact that the hospital had been able to pay its way in 1933 and increase the scope and value of its work was a striking testimony to the benevolence of the British public and the esteem in which they held the services rendered by the voluntary hospitals.

Lord Harewood made a special appeal for contributions to the sum of £1,000 urgently required for the re-equipment of the X-ray department, the apparatus of which had been condemned. On behalf of the hospital he thanked Mrs. Hugh Paul, chairman of the Ladies' Association, for the sum of £4,408 contributed during the year.

The radiographic departments of Guy's Hospital, both medical and surgical, have recently been entirely re-equipped by a gift of £6,000 from the Albert Levy Benevolent Fund through Sir Albert Levy, who is a governor of the hospital. In 1933 14,608 patients were X-rayed in the department, 23,377 photographic films were taken, and 5,361 screen examinations were made. The cost of the films was £2,960.

A young woman who three years ago made a vow that she would one day make a substantial donation to the Metropolitan Hospital, Hackney, E., out of gratitude to the doctors there for saving the life of her mother, has now sent a cheque for £600 to Mr. C. W. Cooling, the secretary for the hospital, but refuses to make her identity public.

The opportunity for the donor to fulfil her vow came in the form of a legacy. Her gift will enable long-delayed building operations and repairs to be carried out.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)