

a 1d. in the slot meter is fitted for the use of the electric iron, which is much appreciated.

The very up-to-date kitchen quarters, with milk and vegetable larders, pantries fitted with staybrite sinks, spotless red tiled flooring, and last but not least, the adequate serving room adjoining the patients' dining-room with two hatches, one for the disposal of used crockery for disinfecting and the other for serving the food, aroused much interest.

Before leaving the main building the visitors were invited to the Nurses' dining-room, formerly the conservatory, where delicious tea and refreshments were served, Miss J. Edgar, the Matron, presiding. Nothing could be more delightful than the dainty equipment of this apartment; the separate tables for four with gay covers, the quaint oak rush bottom chairs, all enhanced by the view of the lovely old garden seen through the large windows.

Leaving the Staff quarters, a very rare type of walled garden near the nurses' lawn is of great interest, one of the very few now left in this country. By its old wrought iron gates admittance is gained to a vegetable garden, complete within its four curving walls. Externally, these friendly walls shelter the flower borders cultivated in off duty time by members of the nursing staff, who are encouraged in this healthy pursuit, prizes being awarded for the best show. Indeed, every possible variety of recreation and comfort is provided in this home of beauty for the staff of Darvell Hall.

**THE SANATORIUM.**

A path by a grassy slope and shrubberies leads to the crest of the hill where the Hospital stands. The scheme by which these buildings, providing the most up-to-date sanatorium requirements, are brought to harmonise with these idyllic surroundings is an architectural triumph. The long picturesque buildings with tiled roofs add rather than detract from the beauty of the scene. The old estate of Darvell Hall, now known as the East Sussex County Council Sanatorium, was opened in 1921, and the present Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. R. Dingley, was appointed in 1923. The Sanatorium is under the guidance of the County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. A. Glegg). The Hospital, now enlarged to accommodate 90 patients, is visited periodically by distinguished clinical consultants, and everywhere the keynote is cheerfulness.

The splendid southerly position of the wards, open to air and sunlight, appears to be much appreciated by the patients, especially in the women's block, the latest building, where the wards are fitted with steel and glass doors which can be adjusted according to the temperature. All the wards are centrally heated, and in the annexes automatic bed-pan cleaners are installed. The small kitchen in the

centre of the block is fitted with a hot plate for serving meals to patients.

The Ward Sisters are State Registered Nurses, and the nurses receive an excellent training in Tuberculosis Nursing, which comprises a course of two years followed by examination, and successful candidates receive a certificate which qualifies them for promotion to the position of staff nurse. The design and cut of the pretty blue uniform chosen by the Matron, Miss Edgar, was very much admired.

The female patients' recreation room, so tastefully decorated, can be temporarily converted by means of folding doors into a chapel, and the handsome Altar Frontal exquisitely embroidered in silver and gold is the work of one of the Sisters, a pair of fine oil paintings, by Freda and St. Clair Marston, attract attention, adding much charm to the surroundings.

Miss Edgar from experience finds that qualified nurses who are ex-patients and who have been certified as medically fit to work, make excellent nurses in this branch.

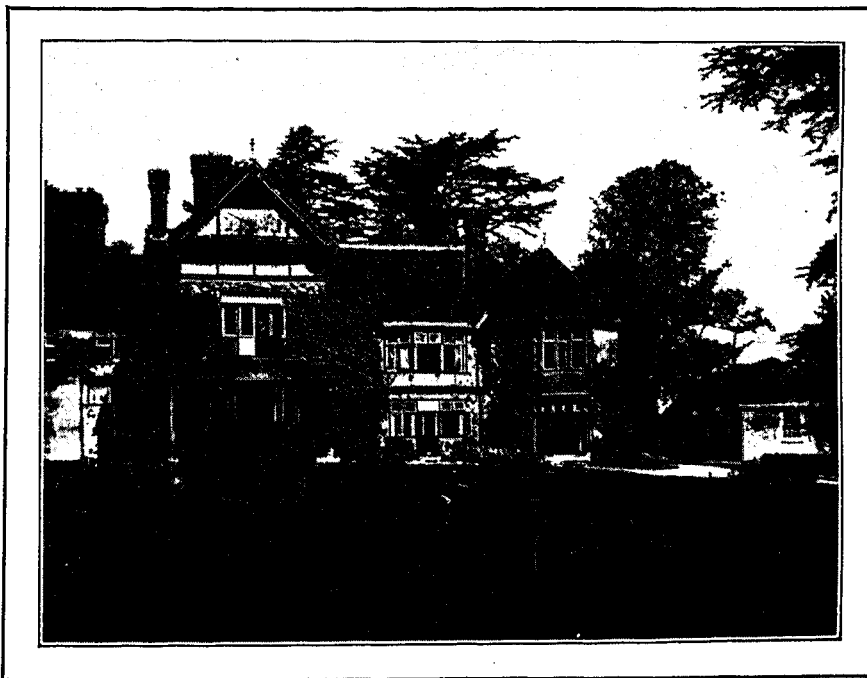
Now we arrive at the stables which have been converted into a complete clinical unit, and the interesting statistics (at bottom of column) bear evidence of the very extensive and increasing treatment given to the patients.

It is in no ordinary sense that the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Dingley, has the welfare of the patients at heart, his far-seeing sympathy visualises patients who return to home conditions, where the wife, in consequence of his condition, must be the breadwinner, and to prepare them for such emergencies cooking lessons

have been organised for male patients in a special hut for the purpose. This privilege is highly appreciated, and the lessons conducted by the kitchen staff are attended with enthusiasm by an ever-increasing number of male patients.

The following table, showing the increasing extent of the scientific work, is of considerable interest:—

	No. of Artificial Pneumothorax Cases commenced.	Phrenic Evulsions performed.	X-ray Films taken.	Screen Examinations.
1925 ...	4	—	—	—
1926 ...	3	—	—	—
1927 ...	16	—	283	346
1928 ...	19	—	299	622
1929 ...	16	—	315	725
1930 ...	13	—	318	753
1931 ...	57	36	439	833
1932 ...	44	35	524	1,073
1933 ...	41	50	539	900
1934 ...	43	27	800	1,128



THE ORIGINAL DARVELL HALL—NOW THE NURSES' HOME

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)