

Space does not permit us to comment upon all that could be written of the various departments. There is a workshop where men patients do carpentering, and under the supervision of an expert carpenter, formerly a patient, the useful work of general repairs on the estate, and basket work, are done.

Of special interest is the recreation building, the Edgar Hut, of which the Matron, Miss Edgar, was the originator, and which is named after her.

A sum of £500 was collected by the patients, ex-patients and staff to purchase a second-hand L.C.C. school-room (a wooden hut). The appearance of this structure on its arrival at Darvell Hall Sanatorium, we were told, challenged the hopes of the most sanguine, nevertheless under the supervision of their instructor the patients in the Sanatorium re-erected and converted the building into the present recreation room and canteen.

In the Edgar Hut concerts and whist drives are held. On visiting days it is used as a café where refreshments are served to patients' visitors and their friends, where small tables with pretty cloths are provided for their use.

It is a standing testimony to the wonderful spirit pervading the institution that the patients achieved this splendid work, only requiring help for the electric light installation and the tiling, and at completion it was free of debt.

The fine stage is designed on scientific lines with dressing-rooms behind. There are cases exhibiting excellent work done in the occupational therapy unit, embroidery, mending, stencilling, baskets, and a perfect model designed to scale of the "Santa Maria."

Time pressed, and the guests who would fain have tarried were constrained to depart, and in saying good-bye all felt that they could not express too warmly their appreciation of the courtesy and kindness extended to them by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Dingley, and their hostess, Miss J. Edgar. Their visit to this village of healing on the Sussex hills will long remain an abiding memory of scientific treatment, and nursing care, carried out under their expert direction for the benefit and comfort of the patients with the happiest results.

ALICE STEWART BRYSON.

THE LEAGUE OF MENTAL HOSPITAL NURSES.

The League of Mental Hospital Nurses met for its Reunion at Bethlem Royal Hospital, Monk's Orchard, Beckenham, on Saturday, August 31st. The non-resident members and invited guests were welcomed at the entrance by the genial Matron, Miss S. C. Hearder, and assembled in the handsome oak-panelled Board Room, where the coats of arms of Presidents and Treasurers for hundreds of years past decorate the walls.

Royalty was represented by portraits of King Henry VIII at one end and a beautiful oil painting of our present Queen Mary at the other.

After a short introduction to the history of the hospital and its aims, on modern lines, by the Resident Medical Officer, the party was conducted on a tour of inspection by two of the Sisters through the grounds and certain parts of the hospital. The natural beauty of the property needs to be seen to be realised, consisting as it does of many richly wooded acres.

Our first halting place was the cricket ground which we can imagine is one of the most beautiful and extensive in England. Here a match was in progress between some of the patients and officers of the hospital and an outside team.

There was a considerable number of spectators taking a keen interest in the game, with a nurse or two in uniform in attendance. The beauty of these surroundings was accentuated by patches of purple heather. The turf itself

was like green velvet in spite of the long draught. In other parts of the grounds were bowling greens, tennis courts and croquet lawns.

The hospital is built in blocks, which the extent of the property enables to be placed at some distance from one another.

Everything that consideration and ingenuity can devise has been provided for the well-being and happiness of these mentally afflicted sufferers.

The convalescent block is in charge of Sister Chinnery, who has held that position for 33 years, and whose kindly personality must have a great deal to do with the recovery of her patients. Men and women here are under one roof, with a common dining room and sitting room if they so desire. Each patient has a separate bedroom furnished with taste and comfort. Hot and cold water is laid on to the basins.

They are allowed out on parole beginning with short and extending to longer periods, thus assuming a certain amount of responsibility before returning to the full stress of normal life.

We passed along outside the verandahs where patients, still acutely ill, were lying in the sunshine and air. All the blocks have verandahs opening out on to a beautiful garden of their own, some enclosed by hedges and some have the advantage of seeing the space and sensing the distance, which is such a striking feature of the grounds.

The sad block of the refractory patients is almost hidden by ingenious hillocks, covered with various kinds of vegetation and extremely ornamental.

The Night Sister must have a somewhat eerie experience in the winter nights as she has to visit each block four times. She explained that though of course she carried a torch, it was more in order to avoid the rabbits and hedgehogs in her path.

The occupational centre is of great value in the treatment, and we were allowed to see some of the really beautiful work done by the patients, needlework, embroidery, painting on glass, basket work and many other specimens of industry.

The theatre, laboratory, electrical department, dental room, kitchens, are all equipped with the most modern improvements.

The Sisters are all qualified general hospital trained nurses, the probationers have a three years' course of training.

Bethlem is a Royal Foundation and not a rate aided institution, but is supported chiefly by voluntary contributions.

The patients pay anything from £5 5s. weekly to nothing, no difference is made in their treatment, indeed these details do not go beyond the Secretary's office.

Lord Wakefield, the President, is a generous supporter, and the Chapel was given by Lady Wakefield. Our very interesting afternoon was concluded by a beautiful tea in the nurses' pleasant sitting room, where the Matron and Sisters presided with charming courtesy. H. H.

THE KENT COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL NURSES' LEAGUE.

The Nurses' League of the Kent County Mental Hospital, Maidstone, the President of which is the Matron of the Hospital, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., recently gave a charming "At Home" and Garden Party. The weather was superb, and the beautiful gardens surrounding the hospital were greatly admired and enjoyed.

Amongst the attractions provided was a lecture, at which the Medical Superintendent (Dr. Hancock) presided, on "Gas and Gas Appliances," given by an expert on the subject, concluding with a demonstration on the use of gas masks in case of emergency.

After the lecture, Dr. Hancock presented to the best all round probationers in the first, second and third years of

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