

THE CHILDREN'S WARD.

Here again there are many charming touches in the Children's Ward, its maximum accommodation is seven cots, and the hospital is indebted to the inhabitants of Forest Row, who supplied the beautiful equipment for this Ward in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George V.

Oxidised silver cots harmonise well with the blue Bolton sheeting, curtains, and illustrated nursery rhymes are on their little blue bedspreads woven in white. On the walls are arresting children's pictures, and in the crockery equipment, most charming George V Silver Jubilee mugs, and blue rubber locker tops, so pretty and easily cleaned. The large French windows open to the terrace, and last but not least, toys of the best were delighting these happy little patients as we passed by.

Leading off an inner private corridor, there are six single private wards, equipped with a separate kitchen and suite of consulting and dressing rooms. The tasteful furnishing of these wards with glass-topped dressing tables, dainty curtains and bedspreads, and enhanced by the charming outlook to the garden, leaves nothing to be desired. Private cases are treated at a cost of six guineas per week.

The Operating Theatre would seem to be most perfectly equipped, with every modern appliance, and provided with a complete suite of rooms necessary to the department.

The X-Ray Department was awe-inspiring, for installed here is an X-Ray apparatus made by Watson & Son, a British firm, of such scientific perfection, that there are only two others of its kind in England. It is shock-proof, and by pressing a pedal with the foot, the bed is raised to a perpendicular position. How the wherewithal to pay for it came is like a fairy-story! for one day the sum of £1,000 was received from an anonymous donor, just what it cost!

We then visited the main kitchen in which there is a large alcove scullery, fitted with washing-up sinks, with larders, frigidaire and vegetable house adjoining, all with tiled walls and in spotless condition. For cooking gas is used. The pleasant staff dining rooms are conveniently near the kitchen for service purposes.

In the excellent cupboard space allowed throughout the hospital, it was evident that the Matron had had her say, and won the day! In the neatest places possible, cupboards were revealed.

Here our hostess most kindly suggested the welcome refreshment of tea, prior to a tour of the staff quarters, to which the first floor is entirely devoted.

Across the floor of the main corridor, we come to the central staircase, as we pass up the spiral staircase, of unique design, the wrought iron balustrade, enamelled palest green, in charming contrast to the jade green stair covering is very striking.

As the main upper corridor is reached, and we are conducted to the Matron's quarters, to her sitting-room where tea was served and where personal treasures of pictures and china, the essential charm in a room of one's own, Miss Garlett presiding, all enjoyed delicious tea and cakes and welcome respite during this interesting and instructive tour. Over the tea-cups we learned that the Ladies' Guild is responsible for the linen repairs, and that to send the washing out to be laundered is economical. The Nursing Staff is about 12 in number, which includes two Sisters and two trained Staff Nurses.

After tea the Staff quarters were visited; everywhere the decorations gave a sense of light and brightness; Sisters' bed-sitting-rooms of such satisfying dimensions with hot and cold water supply, built-in-wardrobe, cheval glass dressing table, and an arc of windows overlooking beautiful scenery, the whole most conducive to cheerful respite.

The arrangements for other grades of nursing and domestic staff were correspondingly ample, and in many of the rooms embroidered toilet covers and curtains were the handiwork of the Matron, a keen exponent of dainty linen.

The general sitting-rooms were heated by means of coal or electric fires, and simplicity the keynote in their very tasteful and simple equipment, the long French windows opening on to the balcony. The balcony, a remarkable feature of this unique Hospital, is many feet wide, running the whole length of the building. Here the staff may sit or promenade; the aspect is south-west, commanding an uninterrupted view of unspoiled country until Ashdown Forest meets the horizon.

Here it was interesting to have a closer view of the snake-entwined staff of Æsculapius, now famous owing to the superstitious fears it aroused in some of the inhabitants of East Grinstead.

It was considered that the snake had brought bad luck inasmuch as it rained heavily when the Opening Ceremony was performed by Princess Helena Victoria on January 8th. Then the Matron of the Hospital, Miss Garlett, and a nurse became patients themselves, and two patients, an elderly woman and an 18 months' old child, died within ten days of the opening. So strong was the feeling against the snake that the Committee considered its removal, the staff and patients, however, were undisturbed by these superstitions. As one of the Sisters remarked with a smile, to a press reporter, "Nobody here worries about it, the two people who died were not expected to recover when they entered the hospital, if the snake is removed it will cost about £60. We all think it would be much better spent on a new X-Ray outfit, which the hospital needs."

It would seem that the God of Healing holds his sway in his true emblematical sense, when we remember the munificent gift for the X-Ray Department.

The high standard of efficiency is unmistakably evident in the contented, happy demeanour of patients and staff. It is difficult to believe that so short a time ago as April, 1935, Lord Horder laid its foundation stone, and the Opening Ceremony, performed by Princess Helena Victoria, took place as recently as January 8th, 1936.

Of Miss Garlett's onerous and devoted service of over 26 years, in which she has experienced the passing from the old to the new Queen Victoria Cottage Hospital, we may aptly quote from the speech of Mr. Cecil Rowntree, Hon. Consulting Surgeon, and delivered on the former event, who said in reference to the achievements at the old hospital: "In spite of not too up-to-date equipment, the antiquated building, in spite of the difficulties, owing to the self-sacrificing work of the Matron, the efficiency of the Medical Staff, and the watchful care of the Committee, the work had been kept up to a very high standard of achievement." Sir Robert Kindersley, President of the Hospital, in his speech at the opening of the new Hospital, when thanking the workers, referred to "their splendid Matron whom they all loved."

On their departure, the Members of the Administration Class of the British College of Nurses expressed warm gratitude to their hostess for her untiring courtesy and kindness, and the very instructive tour they had so much enjoyed. They feel that all who are concerned are to be congratulated on the management of this beautiful model Cottage Hospital, in its perfect setting where the work achieved in the gentle art of Healing is a triumph indeed on the Great Highway of Progress.

May the serpent of Æsculapius maintain its beneficent association with the devoted staff of this model Cottage Hospital.

Alice Stewart Bryson.

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