

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

BUILDING A "NO-NOISE" HOSPITAL.

In order that the new Westminster Hospital shall earn the right to be called a "No-Noise" Hospital, the Architects and the Consulting Engineer are working in close collaboration, so that the most modern methods of elimination are incorporated in the finished building.

External noise prevention is mainly a matter of window construction, since such noise finds its easiest entry into the building through the windows. As a preventative the question of introducing plate glass or double windows is being investigated.

Internal noise prevention is also a difficult and serious matter, especially in a hospital which demands quiet, but cannot use carpets to deaden the noise of passing footsteps or avoid accidental shock-noises caused by traffic in the corridors or the passing of staff from ward to ward.

The big problem in a steel and concrete building is to prevent the transmission of noise and vibration occurring in one part to other parts. The structure, interlocking at every point, may act as a conductor of vibration, however caused.

Curious facts have developed as a result of the exact study of these problems by scientific means. It has been found that a vibration wave created on one floor may travel upwards to other floors, actually skipping those which are not in tune with its vibrations and emerging strongly on a floor higher up which responds to the same key-note.

Seeking a method of preventing all this noise trouble, it has been found that the floor itself must be dealt with first and in this building it is to be made on the double principle, that is to say, there will be two floors, one above the other, to every room. The lower of these will carry the weight and be of reinforced concrete borne on the steel frame set at a level so that the ceiling surface will be flat throughout, the steel beams being hidden. There is an advantage in this since it means that the partitions can be placed where required without being governed by the position of any ceiling beam.

The upper part of the double floor may be made of any material desired, but will be isolated from the lower, by a series of compressed rubber "acoustic pads," so as to prevent the sounds in any particular room travelling through into the room below.

By using this double floor construction a valuable space between the ceiling of the one room and the floor of the room above is secured, in which can be placed the service pipes and wires, which are in this way not only concealed from view, but easily accessible for alterations and repairs.

This double floor principle will be used for the construction of the flat roofs. Here the air space between the two layers will keep the top rooms from absorbing the heat in summer and will prevent the escape of warmth from the top rooms during winter.

The Duke of Kent, President of University College Hospital, will open the new extensions of the hospital on Wednesday, December 16th. The ceremony will take place in the Paramount Theatre, which adjoins the new building. The extensions will provide a new wing for paying patients, an additional home for the nursing staff, a new X-ray department, a home for the domestic staff, and new ante-natal and infant welfare departments.

A gift of £10,000 towards the London Hospital's appeal for £80,000 from a Jewish friend of the hospital who insists on remaining anonymous was announced at the Quarterly Court of Governors.

The items which the £80,000 will cover include the exten-

sion of the nurses' home (£21,000); the ear, nose and throat wards (£15,000); extension of laboratories (£6,000); re-modelling and re-equipping the in-patients' and out-patients X-ray department; a domestic servants' hostel to house 100 (£25,000); and expenses incidental to the scheme (£4,500). The first three items are dependent upon each other, and no one item can be carried out without the others. A sum of £42,000 is therefore needed before an effective start can be made in the scheme of improvements.

Guy's dinner-ball will be held at Grosvenor House on Thursday, December 17th, in aid of Guy's Hospital. A pageant and allegorical court masque, directed and produced by Dr. Crisford Garton, will be given during the ball and will illustrate the history of Guy's Hospital in symbolic terms.

The proceeds of Guy's Hospital nurses' sale of work held in the hospital grounds are to be divided between the Appeal Fund and the nurses' own Cosmo Bonsor Memorial Fund.

King Edward's Hospital Fund have issued a revised edition of their Out-Patient Time-table for London hospitals. All doctors in the London area have received copies, and a considerable number have been asked for by infant welfare and other health societies.

This Time-table is part of the effort that is being made by the King's Fund and the hospitals to reduce the time of waiting in out-patient departments. It helps patients and their doctors to prevent the waste of time which sometimes results from attendance at the wrong hour, or even on the wrong day.

At a recent luncheon at the Royal Northern Hospital, to inaugurate an appeal for £350,000, Sir Richard Vyse stated that in the years before the war an average of 2,330 in-patients were treated at the hospital. Last year 6,295 in-patients and 360,000 out-patients were treated.

As we go to press we learn that the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health (Sir Arthur MacNalty) has been issued. As these Reports are usually of great value in connection with National Health, we hope to devote space to it next month.

SPLENDID FOLK.

The world is full of splendid folk,
I meet them everywhere;
The quiet unassuming kind
You hardly know they're there,
Until some trouble comes to you
Like Death or threat of war
And then you'll find them quiet like
Just knocking at your door.

The world is full of splendid folk,
They shame me with their worth,
Balm for a wounded frightened heart,
The sweetness of the earth.
Lending their kindly presence there
The healing of their touch,
Giving their tender sympathy
Where it can mean so much.

The world is full of splendid folk
In spite of all they say,
For every one who turns to scoff
A thousand kneel to pray.
The kindly leaven of their love
Is wide enough to make
The toughest spot in all the earth
A heaven for their sake.

EDNA JAQUES.

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