

THE INFANTS' HOSPITAL, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON.

Perhaps nowhere could we see the amazing advance in the campaign for the health of the nation better demonstrated than by a visit to The Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, the first of its kind to be founded in Europe, and where the great work which goes forward on most modern and scientific lines is unique.

When the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses were privileged to visit The Infants' Hospital on Thursday, November 14th, 1935, they were most cordially welcomed in the beautiful Board Room by the Matron, Miss Littlejohn. This fine room, also used as a Lecture Hall, is decorated throughout in the Italian style. It was executed by Italian workmen, and was the gift of the Founder of the Hospital, Sir Robert Mond, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.E., J.P.

The Infants' Hospital was founded by Sir Robert Mond in 1903 for the scientific treatment of young babies suffering from malnutrition and allied disorders.

To meet the need of the increasing number of patients and the advance of medical science, a building scheme has recently been completed by which the hospital now contains 100 cots and seven separate bedrooms for nursing mothers. The original buildings have been reconstructed and a new Nurses' Home has been added. The various departments now include two Operating Theatre suites, a Milk Laboratory and Diet Kitchen, a Lecture Theatre, a Pathological Department and Research Laboratory Departments for X-Ray work, Massage, Light and Electrical Treatment. For the benefit of Out-Patients there is accommodation and equipment for the treatment of Ophthalmic, Dental, Ear, Nose and Throat cases, thus providing for their adequate care.

The class was first conducted over the administrative staff quarters; here, as throughout the Hospital, a colour scheme of decoration in primrose and pale cream radiates brightness everywhere, while simplicity with utility are the predominating factors in construction and equipment. Electrical fires are installed within and sheer with the walls. The panelless doors and on staircases the balustrades of enforced glass demonstrate the last word in labour-saving invention.

The First Floor.

On the first floor is the nursing mothers' flat. Here is accommodation for seven nursing mothers who are admitted with their babies for a nominal fee assessed by the Lady Almoner. In certain cases the patient's own "nannie" may also be admitted, board and lodging to

be £1 10s. per week. These rooms are equipped with bed and baby's cot, and with every comfort and convenience.

To ensure the proper use of the towels, white are for the bath, but the green turkish towels are provided for the babies' buttocks. On the door is an engagement and name slot. An interesting American invention which aroused considerable interest was the electrical breast pump for expressing milk, which the mothers can work themselves.

This suite of rooms for nursing mothers includes bathroom and toilet arrangements of most up-to-date construction, and a charming sitting and rest room, and observation ward.

The Second and Third Floors.

The second and third floors comprise four-bedded glass wards—a fairyland of light and crystal; balconies, facing south leading off the wards, look to the welcome view of trees and green of Vincent Square. Throughout the length of these floors the bracing freshness of the atmosphere is due to the free ventilation. What is termed the Dimmer lighting can be adjusted to give a subdued light for night use. In each of these wards is the ingenious invention of the beautiful porcelain baths, constructed to act as hand-basins also, and to which is attached the towel rail and stainless steel holders for lotion bowl for hand disinfection, which swing out in any direction for convenience. The angle poise hand lamps were much admired. Nursing is conducted on the Barrier system, and in their pretty white enamelled cots the patients were the picture of cosiness clothed in dainty knitted woollies, white for babies and royal blue for toddlers. These garments, which only cost £80 per annum, are knitted and provided by the Hospital Ladies' Association, of which Lady



The Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W.1.

Melchett, D.B.E., is Chairman.

Looking very happy was the now famous little Joseph, the lightest baby that ever lived, who weighed on admission 13 oz., and has now reached 6 lb. 12 oz.; and little Marina who, when introduced into the hospital, weighed 2 lb. 4 oz., now having reached 6 lb. 6 oz.

The patients in bed are fully dressed to avoid risk of cold when restless or sitting up.

The labour of applying hot-water bottles is eliminated by the invention of electric pads, which, placed in the cots, can be adjusted to the temperature required.

The Fourth Floor.

The fourth floor is devoted to single-bed glass wards for private patients. Here, as elsewhere, the equipment would appear to be perfect. Patients are admitted to private wards, the fee for maintenance being £7 7s. per

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