

## VISIT TO THE ROYAL NATIONAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL AT STANMORE.

For a hundred years the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital has carried on its work for the cure of persons deformed from birth or by disease. The hospital in Great Portland Street, W., was founded in 1838, but the country branch, which a party of Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses were privileged to visit on March 9th is on Brockley Hill, Stanmore, the highest point of Middlesex, and was opened in 1921. The accommodation for patients is here much greater than in Great Portland Street and there is plenty of room for expansion. An appeal for funds to erect a new massage block, a private ward and a swimming pool, the latter urgently needed for the treatment of infantile paralysis, was broadcast on Sunday, March 7th.

The visitors received a most hospitable welcome from the Matron, Miss Williams, who entertained them to tea and, herself, accompanied them to all parts of the hospital where she has held the post of Matron since it was opened. Many details of the administration were explained by Matron and everywhere there were evidences of her planning and care for the staff and patients. Mr. H. J. Seddon, F.R.C.S., Senior Resident Surgeon and Medical Superintendent, most kindly conducted the party round the wards and theatre and gave a lecture, illustrated with lantern slides which proved a most interesting introduction to the work of the hospital besides adding greatly to the knowledge of the nurses of this very important branch of surgery. A short account of the lecture will, we hope, appear in the next issue of the JOURNAL.

There is accommodation, at present, for three hundred and twenty patients in the hospital. This figure does not include the convalescent home, nor the Training College for crippled boys. The staff includes five resident doctors, sixteen trained nurses, fifty-four probationer nurses and fourteen teachers. The domestic staff all live out. The hospital is recognised by the Board of Education and receives a grant from that body. The party was first shown the administrative block and the Sisters' and Nurses' sitting and dining-rooms. These have a pleasant outlook upon a garden. The nurses' bedrooms also appeared very comfortable. Matron next led the way out through a small ward where a number of infants were asleep or resting. Some of these were only a few weeks old. A short path led down to a large army hut which has done duty as a ward since 1922 and is still serviceable. Here were a large number of children suffering from various forms of tuberculosis. Among them was the boy scout, Harold Fox, who was recently decorated with the scout medal for bravery on account of the manner in which he has patiently borne his long illness. In the hut was also shown the magazine which is entirely written and edited by the children. The hut, like all the

wards, faces south, and is open in that direction. In spite of the cold wind which made the visitors glad of their coats, the children appeared quite comfortable in this open ward, so accustomed are they to this outdoor existence. The beds attracted the attention of the party. There are no wire mattresses and fracture boards are incorporated in the frame of the beds. Owing to the exposure to all kinds of weather the beds have to be sprayed with zinc below the coat of enamel, in order that they may not rust. This type of bed was first made for this hospital, and is now exported to all parts of the world. The bathroom at the end of the ward is approached through doors which open wide enough to admit a bed. The larger dressings are done here, as the sterilizers are in the bath-room. Over the bath is a broad bath board to facilitate the washing of patients in plaster.



AN OPEN-AIR BLOCK.

From the hut the party followed a path, bordered with young trees, to the Duke of Gloucester Ward, so named in honour of the President of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital. The southern aspect of the wards is entirely of glass and can be thrown open during the daytime. Vitaglass also forms the southern slope of the roof. Matron said that in Summer it had been considered necessary to paint the vitaglass green, as the patients were receiving an excess of ultra-violet radiation. On some of the children was still the remains of Summer tan. Certain interesting facts with regard to the reaction of patients to sunlight were mentioned. The type of person with fair to reddish hair turns a lovely golden brown when exposed to graduated doses of sunlight; the dark type burns almost brown, but both answer well to the treatment. Patients who do not sunburn well do not seem to receive nearly so much benefit from the open-air treatment. The visitors were very interested in the apparatus employed to reduce curvature in the dorsal and cervical portions of the spine. The patients are suspended by means of an arrangement of padded straps which pass under the chin and behind

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