

The dining room was equipped with polished wood round tables to seat six, and looked friendly and inviting. On the men's side was found a full-size billiard table, and a grand piano provided attraction for the women. The dormitories opened on to covered verandas where beds could easily be wheeled out so that the patients could enjoy the views of the spacious and pleasant pleasure gardens.

It is amazing that in a comparatively short space of time such a complete transformation of mental treatment should have taken place (well we remember the bad old days). Visitors were entertained to tea in the lounge of the Nurses' Home—a most imposing building. The lounge itself—a very fine room—was plentifully supplied with charming pink wicker chairs. We were interested to note in the writing room, a framed copy of Florence Nightingale's exhortation to Nurses. And also a reprint of "The New Asylum Nurse," by the late Chaplain of Colney Hatch, also the letter from Miss Nightingale to the same Chaplain, on Mental Nursing—the original of which is in the Nightingale collection of the British College of Nurses—it is refreshing in these material days, to find in this up-to-date institution some loftier ideal than mere well-being.

The thanks of visitors are due to the Matron, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., and her Staff, for their kind and hospitable provision for their entertainment, and not least for the sumptuous tea. The whole arrangements spelled efficiency and radiated kindness which we can well believe will be the keynote of success in the new venture.

The ratepayers will have to face the cost. Mr. Walter Elliot said he was not unmindful of this as he was also a Kentish ratepayer, but they have in return something of which they may well be proud. The new scheme stands not only for the present relief of human distress, but also as a pioneer movement for investigation and treatment of the saddest of all afflictions.

The new Admission Block is the answer of Dr. Allen Hancock, M.C., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.P.M., the distinguished Medical Superintendent, to the old challenge: "Who can minister to a mind diseased?"

H. H.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Members of the Royal Family have, during the past month, paid visits to many hospitals. Queen Mary visited the Prince of Wales's Hospital, Plymouth, and received purses for the endowment of a Cot to commemorate the twelfth birthday of the Princess Elizabeth and to inaugurate the League of Hospital Friends.

The Duchess of Kent opened a £10,000 maternity wing at Livingstone Hospital, Dartford.

The matron gave her a toy duck for Princess Alexandra, and a woolly dog for Prince Edward.

Bart.'s has recently celebrated the opening of its enlarged patients' library. The supply of books to the wards is now very properly recognised as a valuable addition to the services of London's big general hospitals, and the new extension at Bart.'s, with its steel shelving to carry 5,000 volumes, will increase the efficiency of a department that is acknowledged to be as well organised as any of its kind in the country.

In its present quarters, the library issues an average of 3,000 books every month. Each patient is visited once a week by one of the voluntary librarians, the books being brought to the bedside on trolleys which can display 150 titles at a time. In addition to its ward service, the library at Bart.'s is a training centre for hospital librarians.

St. Bartholomew's and Charing Cross Hospitals are the only two large voluntary hospitals in the Metropolitan

area which do not take paying patients—and a Select Committee of the House of Lords has recently rejected a Bill promoted by the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital to enable them to use the general funds of the hospital to provide a paying patients' department. Counsel who appeared for the Governors said that they were authorised in 1935 to set up a paying patients' department on condition that a special fund was raised for the purpose. Unfortunately, they were able to raise only £10,000 of the £124,000 required.

Undignified methods of collecting for voluntary hospitals were criticised by Lord Horder, speaking at Stafford when he opened the £30,000 extension of the Staffordshire General Infirmary.

"I am a great believer in the voluntary hospital," said Lord Horder, "but some of the methods by which money is obtained seem a little undignified. In Fleet Street, for instance, we see medical students, dressed up as nurses, parading in vans with long poles to collect half-pennies and pennies."

Commenting on this criticism in connection with "Flag Day" *Saint Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* reports:—

"The result of the collection in our area was a great success. £1,485 was collected, which is an improvement of £449 on last year's effort.

"We are told that Lord Horder thinks medical students undignified when they indulge in this pastime. For ourselves we have still to meet the dignified student of medicine. At all events it proved an entertaining day for those of us who were content to throw dignity to the winds and black-mail the public into buying flowers. We are glad that it also proved profitable to the Hospital."

It is announced that: "The walls of the surgical block of Guy's Hospital are sinking."

The block was the original hospital completed by Thomas Guy in 1725. Guy, who was born about 1645, the son of a lighterman and coal merchant, amassed a huge fortune from his bookbinder's business in Cornhill and devoted most of it to hospital charities.

Now the block will soon have to be replaced. An appeal for building and extension funds is being made by Lord Nuffield, Sir Alfred Beit, Lord Ebbisham, Lord Goschen, and Mr. Eric Waley, chairman of the hospital.

Of the £500,000 originally appealed for, £200,000 has been received or promised.

The London, St. Thomas's, Bart.'s, Guy's, naturally all need vast emoluments to meet the progress of scientific medicine and nursing. It is always a relief to realise that they are erected on gold mines. The enhanced value of land in London makes their future secure. But of course central organisation and co-operation are all to the good.

## THE DEATH OF MRS. ROME, R.R.C.

The somewhat unexpected death of Mrs. Edith MacGregor Rome, S.R.N., R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief of the British Red Cross Society, on June 6th, will be deeply regretted by a very large circle of colleagues and friends. Always sympathetic and kind we shall miss her helpful presence at meetings in support of professional affairs and her sincere interest in good works. During the War she served with distinction and was awarded the Royal Red Cross, 1st Class, the Order of Marie Regina of Rumania, 1st Class, and the Order of St. Anne of Russia.

The funeral was at Southampton Crematorium at which sincere mourners assembled.

A memorial service for Mrs. Rome was held in the chapel at Westminster Hospital on June 13th. She was trained at Westminster Hospital.

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