

BLAZING THE TRAIL.

The Royal Cancer Hospital (Free) has issued an appeal entitled "Blazing the Trail" in which it states "The characteristic perseverance of our greatest aviators and explorers is nobly repeated in the surgeons, doctors, scientists and nurses who are devoting their lives at the Royal Cancer Hospital to the crusade against cancer. Help to 'blaze the trail' in this great enterprise by sending your donation now."

In his appeal for funds, Lord Russell of Killowen lays great stress on the word "Free." It is an essential part of the hospital's name, for it ministers without charge to the necessitous who suffer from cancer, tumour or allied diseases. It is supported entirely by voluntary gifts. It receives no grants from Government or municipal



A VIEW OF THE ROYAL CANCER HOSPITAL (FREE)
showing Granard House on extreme right.

service. No payments are asked from patients. No recommendation letters are necessary. The only passports are the facts that the applicant is afflicted with cancer.

To cope with the ever-increasing work, the Committee have decided to build another four wards and at present many urgent cases are clamouring for admission and these cannot be accepted. Another feature of the scheme will be the provision of a separate ward for young children, quite a number of whom suffer from cancer. That this dread disease should attack the little ones, will, no doubt, cause pain and some surprise; at present the children are placed in the general wards. The provision of more suitable accommodation for them is one of the urgent reasons for enlisting your support.

RESEARCH.

The nature of cancer may be investigated by many different methods, physical, chemical and biological. In the Research Institute of The Royal Cancer Hospital (Free), certain chemical factors which may be concerned in the origin of cancer are being examined.

Pure chemical compounds of known molecular structure have been made here which are very active in causing malignant cellular growth. These compounds, first discovered in this Institute, are now in use in laboratories in many other parts of the world. Great efforts are being made to find out how these substances bring about the growth of cancer, and whether any such compounds are formed in the human body in disease.

RADIOLOGY.

Every modern hospital must of necessity have a well-equipped Radiological Department, for radiology has now an established place in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. On the therapeutic side, every new method of treatment has to be tried and evaluated, that in which there is even a promise of good being retained and developed.

The new Radiological Department, inaugurated in

1934, was designed not only for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, but special Research Physical Laboratories were added in which the scientific problems of radiation therapy of all kinds could be investigated.

There are thus three sections of the department:

- (1) X-ray Diagnosis and Therapy;
- (2) Radium Therapy;
- (3) Physics, as applied to Medical Radiology. The department is well-equipped in all sections.

PATHOLOGY.

In the laboratories of the Pathological Department, a staff of pathologists carry out all those complex tests and investigations which assist the surgeons to arrive at a correct diagnosis

and guide them as to the best line of treatment to adopt.

Pathology attempts to put diagnosis on a scientific basis: the work is time-consuming and requires much skill and great experience. Research into the mode and spread of cancer in the body and its effects on the tissues is continually being carried on and the results obtained are of great value in determining the course the disease may take and the results one may obtain by various forms of treatment.

The appeal in support of the Royal Cancer Hospital should result in a very generous response. Alas! have we not all seen those near and dear struggle and succumb to the torture of this pitiless enemy of humanity? Indeed let us all give according to our means—and help to Blaze the Trail.

We are indebted to the courtesy of the Secretary of the Royal Cancer Hospital (Free) for the illustration of this article.

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