

## King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

### Homes for the Aged Sick £250,000 Scheme.

IN JUNE, 1949, KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND for London allocated a sum of £250,000 to the setting-up of homes for the aged sick. These homes are for people who go into hospital suffering from some illness and partially recover, but no longer need to stay in a hospital ward though they do need some hospital care.

Their continued presence in the hospital is not only bad for them but is bad also for the hospital itself. Other people in urgent need of hospital treatment cannot be admitted because there is no room. Many such people are obliged to remain in the hospital wards when they could in fact live something approaching a normal life in more home-like surroundings and would indeed benefit from such an atmosphere.

With the £250,000 the Fund is setting up twelve homes, some of which are nearing completion. The location of the homes presented some difficulty. Every effort has been made to link them with hospitals already keenly interested in the aged, but it was not always easy to find the right sort of house in just the right area.

The patients will sleep in rooms rather than wards, there will be pleasant sitting-rooms and dining-rooms and the inmates will be encouraged to give any help they can in the house and garden. In every case the houses selected have gardens which will certainly prove a delight to the old people. Both men and women will be eligible, but arrangements for admission can only be made through the hospitals. The homes will be run by voluntary organisations having experience of this type of work.

The Minister of Health has given the scheme wholehearted support and has encouraged the Metropolitan Regional



Lending a hand in the garden.

Boards to pay the maintenance costs of all patients accommodated in the homes to be set up in their Regions. The Ministry and the Boards have given every assistance to enable the work of purchase and adaption of the homes to go forward as quickly as possible.

The enthusiasm shown by the voluntary organisations both large and small has been encouraging. The Middlesex and London Divisions of the Red Cross have been indefatigable in their search for properties and in their interest in the adaption and equipment of the properties when they are found. In other areas local organisations have worked with no less enthusiasm, in full co-operation with the hospitals concerned.

Three or four of the twelve homes are expected to open before the end of this year. Should the results of this experiment prove satisfactory perhaps other voluntary organisations may turn their attention to this type of work as well as to the provision of homes for the able-bodied aged. The Health Service itself may also be able to take up the scheme on a wider basis.

The Fund regards this plan as an experiment. The need for such accommodation is far greater than can be met even partially by these twelve homes.

This scheme contributes to the welfare of the hospitals of London by helping them to get their patients out of hospital as soon as, in the patient's own interests, it is wise to do so. It contributes also to the welfare of the patients themselves by providing them with surroundings and treatment they need at the moment when they need them. It seems, therefore, eminently suited to the work of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.



Some of the inhabitants of the lovely house  
in Roehampton Lane.

Age sits with decent grace upon his visage,  
And worthily becomes his silver locks,  
He wears the mark of many years well spent,  
Of virtue, truth well tried, and wise experience.

ROWE.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)