

hear they have to build an addition; think what a waste of money and labour!

It is quite a relief to come home to Glasgow, and pay a visit to one of our well-planned Hospitals here. My particular delight is the Sick Children's Hospital. Of course children are always interesting, and there seems more hope associated with them; but, besides that, there is such an air of good management about the little Hospital on Garnet Hill, that one comes away with a feeling of satisfaction. They do things so thoroughly up there. Last year there was a talk of defective drainage, but it did not end in talk and a little patching up, as is so often the way till some outbreak of fever compels action; as was the case in the Old Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh, when a few Nurses had to die of typhoid before the authorities would move in the matter; but, the moment things were found unsatisfactory, the whole drainage system was renewed from end to end, and nothing could, they say, be more perfect. Whenever any change for the better is made, the Nurses come in for their share of consideration. Since a new ward was built, they have a large pretty dining room. Their cosy little sitting room is upstairs.

The new ward is a particularly pretty one. It contains sixteen cots, and one has the impression that there is plenty of room. The ventilation is excellent, and, I am told, not draughty. The floor is of teak, and the woods used for the furniture and broad window sills are ash and teak. At each end the fireplace is pretty and artistic, and the small pipe-coil in the centre, with its marble slab, only suggests a convenient place for a handsome plant. The prevailing tone of the walls is a pale green, with, I think, a little red below, for it does not feel cold in colouring; the ceiling seems to be white enamel, which reflects the light and suggests perfect cleanliness. The window-ledge of dark teak contrast well with the light walls, and pots and plants look very well on them. In all the ward there are no corners. The floor joins the wall in a curve; the sides join the ends in a curve. What a good plan it is! That is also a feature in the Children's Dispensary. Surely such an excellent, sanitary, and work-saving plan of building ought specially to be adopted in Cottage Hospitals, where every appliance to make cleaning easy should be introduced. I was particularly delighted with the new bath-room, &c. It all looked so nice. The sputa cups, &c., of glass, all spotlessly clean, the perforated zinc rack outside the window for the ward utensils seemed all that could be desired, while the little kitchen at the other end of the ward, with its pretty polished wooden dresser, full of little white basins and "ickie" teapots, with a spout you "may drink out of," as a child described, a feeder; and a convenient gas arrangement, where food and water can be warmed in a minute, seemed to me so delightful that I wished to be making some dainty dish. Outside the ward there is a spiral staircase leading to its asphalted roof, which is employed as a play-ground for the children. Why are roof-spaces not more used in our large towns? The air is much fresher on the top of a house than at its base in the street, and small children would be physically and morally much better

on the house-tops than in the streets at play. It has always appeared to me there is a vast waste of possibilities on the roofs of houses. But to return to the Glasgow S.C.H. The new ward is not by any means the only one which profits by its roof. Another ward opens on to it, and it is, I believe, proposed to cover in part of one end of this play-roof with glass, so that the children may have shelter when necessary.

Decorated window glass is rather a feature in our S. C. H. In the entrance lobby there is a handsome stained glass window, and in the new Nurses' dining room there is another, the subject of which is "Dorcas," but if the word was not in the corner, the female figure with two children by her would represent equally well any other type of the womanly heart. In one ward, instead of having blinds, the lower part of the window is stained in pictures representing the tale of the Babes in the Wood.

I promised I would tell the readers of the RECORD something about Glasgow Hospitals, and perhaps some may think the Royal Infirmary, the Western, and the Victoria, should have come first. I must confess, the children are my personal and particular interest, at any rate I can plead the precedent of Royalty; for when H.R.H. Princess Christian was here last year on R.B.N.A. business intent, she chose the Sick Children's Hospital for her first visit, and I am sure I cannot do better than follow her example. In the other three Hospitals I have mentioned, I would so like to make some re-arrangements! From the Old "Royal," I would like to take the Nurses' Home and give it to the Western, which would then be very complete. The Western has a Nurses' Home with some very nice rooms, but the lavatory arrangements are bad. No washstands are allowed in the bedrooms, I believe, and the lavatory with one bath and four fitted basins, are in the centre of each corridor, while in the Home at the Royal they are at the ends of the corridor. However, there are great possibilities in the Western, and the way in which the Royal has been kept up to date in spite of the old building is wonderful. The Victoria is still struggling with its newness—as great a burden as age sometimes.

The conditions of training at the Royal were lately commented on in the RECORD, while at the Western they are, or were a couple of years ago, somewhat unusual. The Probationers had, for the first year, to provide their own dress, which was black stuff. (Fancy a Probationer's black stuff dress at the end of a year!), and they did not sign an agreement till the end of that time. They then sign their agreement, and at the end of their three years, they are examined in the subjects on which lectures have been given, and those who pass receive a certificate, and are eligible for the post of Sister. I believe the examination is a rather stiff one, and as it all comes at once, there being no class examinations to lead up to it, a good deal of cramming is required to pass. One hopes that before long, if it is not done already, a system may be introduced by which the examination may be divided and culminate in a final in the third year, for it must be a great strain on any Nurse to have all the heaviest part of her theoretical work at a time when she has the heaviest responsibility in the wards.

I fear this letter will require the Editor's shears if I make it much longer; so hoping to interest the readers of the RECORD in some of our other Nursing works at no very distant date.—I am, KELVA.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)