

Report of the building committee, presented to His Grace The Duke of Marlborough, President, on the opening of the south-wing, November 21, 1863.

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Radcliffe Infirmary.

REPORT

OF

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE,

PRESENTED TO

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH,

President,

ON THE OPENING OF THE

SOUTH WING,

NOVEMBER 21, 1863.

WITH LITHOGRAPHED PLAN OF THE NEW BUILDINGS.

Oxford :

JOHN HENRY AND JAMES PARKER.

1863.

c

Handwritten Title

REVISED

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

SOUTH WING

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

1881

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Report of the Building Committee.

MY LORD DUKE, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

The Buildings which are to-day to be made over to the Governors of the Infirmary add an entire new Wing to your Institution. Exclusively of a new Mortuary they are 230 ft. in length. They consist of a new Accident Ward with all the requisite appliances; a complete arrangement for Out-Patients; a new Dispensary; and a room for Minor Operations or Casualties adjoining the Accident Ward. All these, together with other necessary arrangements, are provided by the munificence of the Radcliffe Trustees, the University of Oxford, and private Benefactors, without any charge whatever to the Funds of the Hospital.

It is not necessary to enter into a precise account of the history of an undertaking now nearly, and it is hoped satisfactorily, brought to a close. It will suffice to leave on record that in the old building, according to a statement made in a letter in the "Oxford Journal," and never contradicted, numbers of persons amounting to 100 have been counted waiting for their medicines in a room 23 ft. by 6 ft. 6 in., with cubical space of less than 20 ft. for each person;—that the old Accident Ward, being only 10 ft. 10 in. high, provided 795 cubic ft. for each of 18 patients, whereas the new Ward gives to each of 20 patients 1,860 cubic ft., and has in addition far better arrangements both for ventilating and warming.

The following Report will describe ^a—

- 1st, The additions which have been made to the Institution.
- 2ndly, The Cost at which they have been made.
- 3rdly, What remains to be done of the work undertaken by the Building Committee.

^a *The Reader is requested to compare the Plans appended to the Report with the description.*

K. Additions made to the Institution.

OUT-PATIENTS' HALL.

THE Out-Patients will enter the Grounds of the Infirmary by the ordinary Lodge, as now, under the observation of the Porter. They need never enter the Body of the Hospital unless specially directed to do so.

The outer door leads into a Lobby, which will be provided with shelves for baskets and places for umbrellas, and with a Drinking Fountain. Opening from the Lobby are retiring-places for each sex, and a Bath-room with a Lavatory.

The Out-Patients' Hall is 71 ft. in length, 25 ft. in width, and about 20 ft. average height. There are six plate-glass windows to the South hung on sashes, opening above and below, and reaching to nearly the top of the wall. To the East, West, and North are circular lights, made to open. In the ceiling are fourteen trap-doors, opening and shutting by a simple arrangement. The roof is pierced by Ventilators on the North and South sides, and at both ends.

By these several means the air will be rapidly and effectually changed. It has not been thought necessary to apply Watson's or other special ventilators.

The Hall is warmed, first, by a large open Fireplace; and, secondly, by Hot-water Pipes on the low pressure system.

A Book-case will be provided at the North side of the Hall.

On the North and West side of the Hall are six Rooms for the Medical staff, three Physicians and three Surgeons, placed in pairs.

Opposite these Rooms places are marked on the floor for readily fixing the seats on the days for admitting Out-Patients.

The names of each member of the Staff are on the Doors; and the same names are placed on the corresponding tiers of Benches opposite to each door.

Each Medical Officer's room is provided with a firm table, placed conveniently for Microscopical and Chemical Examinations, with water supply, washing apparatus, a sink, and a provision for Gas. The light is a North light, most convenient for the Microscope.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DELIVERY OF MEDICINES.

When Patients have received their instructions from the Physician or Surgeon, they pass into the Shop Corridor at the north-west angle of the Hall, and may either go directly out of the Building, or proceed along the Corridor to one of two Shop Windows or Hatches, and thence outwards by another door. They can thus return, without re-entering the Hall, to the main entrance Lobby, in order to obtain Articles left there when they entered.

A seat is provided in the Corridor for persons waiting for Medicines. It is divided by a 6 ft. 6 in. partition, to allow a passage for the Officials of the Hospital to and from the Hall.

The floor is boarded. There is ample ventilation and a Hot-water coil.

THE SHOP.

So few Pharmaceutical preparations are actually made in the present day in a Hospital of this size, that a Laboratory, properly so called, has not been provided. The Shop is therefore chiefly a Dispensary. There are Medicine Hatches opening into the South Corridor for the Out-Patients, and one into a West Passage for the service of the House.

THE CLINICAL PROFESSOR'S ROOM

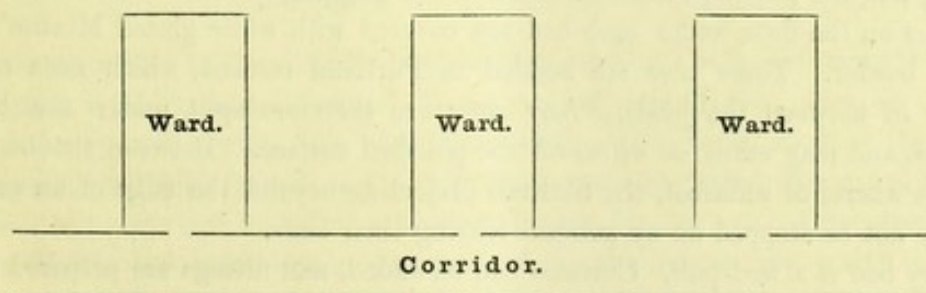
opens into the Shop Corridor as well as into the Hall, to afford convenient access for pupils, officers, and others. It has twice the cubical contents of the other Medical Rooms, and is provided with a special Microscope Table, and an Evaporating Chamber: but the cost of the increased space and the apparatus has not fallen on the Funds of the House, nor on the Subscribers to the new Buildings. On account of the increased size of the Room, and the large outer wall surface, a small coil is introduced from the Hot-water Pipes.

ACCIDENT WARD.

The Accident Ward represents what is called "a Ward Unit on the Pavilion Principle;" to which is added, for convenience, a Casualty Room for the first reception of accidents, and for the various minor surgical casualties which come under the care of the Resident Surgeons in a Hospital. Such an Unit comprises the Ward itself, with Closets, Bath-Room, Nurses' Room, Scullery, Nurses' Closet, and other lesser appliances.

The Pavilion principle is that of erecting a Ward separate from the rest of the Hospital except at one end, so as to allow free ventilation and light from either side of the Ward.

If there be space it is clear that any number of Wards may be erected on this plan by uniting the ends through a corridor thus:—



If the Ward run North and South, then the Morning, Mid-day, and Evening Sun comes successively on both the sides and on one end; if East and West, as our Ward, then only on one side and on both ends. The Committee, it will be remembered, had no option in this

matter. Had the site been an open question, they might have arranged the whole building on the North side of the Infirmary Grounds, then all future extension could have been carried out systematically to the Westward. The Garden can hereafter be used for this mode of extension beyond the old Fever Ward.

The Ward is 78 ft. in length, by 26 ft. 6 in. in width, and 18 ft. in height. Twenty bed-places are fitted up, giving to each bed 1,860 cubic feet of air. There are six Windows on the South, with a similar and opposite set on the North excepting only the second from the entrance, which is replaced by a fireplace. The sashes are of oak, with stout plate glass $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick; opening both at the top and bottom. To prevent draughts either through the window-frames or from the cold outer glass, glass frames have been provided resting on the window-sill, 2 ft. 4 in. in height, and of the same width as the window, which will in effect make the lower part of the windows double; and, if required, these frames can be raised to any height hereafter. Ventilation does not wholly depend on the windows. In the ceiling, between each truss of the roof, is a hinged trap-door, readily opened and shut: all together affording 72 superficial square feet of air passage into the roof space. The roof is pierced North and South, and East and West, by eight opposed open Ventilators for the exit of foul and introduction of fresh air. Besides, in the centre of the floor, between the feet of the beds, are six apertures, which can be opened or closed, communicating with a chamber in a cellar east of the Ward. This chamber is supplied with fresh air by an aperture 3 ft. by 2, and may be heated by the furnace which heats the Out-Patients' Hall and the Shop Corridor. The air flue can be disconnected at will.

In addition to these sources of Air and means for promoting its due circulation, there are in each pier, between the windows, air flues with regulating valves, which open through the wall into the outer air.

There are two open Fireplaces, one on the north side replacing a North Window, one at the West between the West Windows. In the mantelpiece there is an aperture leading to the ventilating shaft which surrounds the flue. This shaft is constructed of Jennings's patent flue-pipes.

The Ward is built over an excavated cellar 9 ft. deep. The joists are plastered on the under surface, with pugging between them. The flooring is of 1-in. deal, with $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. wainscot-oak laid upon it; the latter dowed and side-nailed. A slight current of air passes between the plastering and the pugging, and also between the pugging and the double floor.

The spaces on the floor under each bed are covered with white glazed Minton's tiles, with a glazed red border. These tiles are bedded in Portland cement, which rests on a bed of concrete laid in between the joists. Any moisture therefore spilt under the bed will lie upon the tiles, and may easily be wiped off the polished surface. Between the bed-places the floor is, as elsewhere, of wainscot, the tiles not projecting beyond the edge of an ordinary bed, that they may not be stepped on by patients leaving their beds.

Over every bed is a bed-pull. Curtains can be added, and fittings are prepared for curtain-rods; but Miss Nightingale having been consulted as to the best kind of curtains, and she having declined to advise on the way of fitting what she considered should not be fitted at all, the Committee have not placed curtains.

Two bed-spaces are placed between each Window; and every Patient is separated from

his neighbour by 3 ft. on one side, and by 4 ft. 2 in. on the other, and has a window at the head of his bed.

From foot to foot of the beds on opposite sides are 13 ft. 6 in., allowing 6 ft. 6 in. for the length of a bed. Down the middle of the Ward will be placed cabinets on wheels for surgical appliances, and at the east end a Dresser.

The Walls and Ceiling are of cement, polished so as to prevent any noisome exhalations from lodging there. The tie-beams are of varnished deal. There are no ornaments or mouldings on which dust can rest. The colour of the cement is not uniform: the foreman who was engaged on it left in the middle of the work, and caused thereby some difficulty: indeed, the preparation of these walls has been troublesome in several particulars. Their cleanliness, durability, and cheerfulness make them, however, well worth the labour and expense.

Besides the North and South Windows there are two West Windows, one on either side of the Fireplace. Every Patient in the Ward can look, if he will, down the Garden in Summer, and in Winter upon the open Fire.

At the South-west angle is a Bath-room and a Lavatory, also lined with polished cement. They are supplied with hot and cold water; the basins are of enamelled iron in a slate slab, with supply and waste pipe; the Bath is on wheels. At the North-west there is a double Closet, separated by a passage, and a Urinal, all thoroughly ventilated. The Bath-room and the Closets are separated from the Ward by Swing Doors, and outside these a warm-air flue from the hot-air apparatus, to approximate the temperature of the Closets to the Ward in severe weather.

There are provisions for water supply on the self-acting process.

The Nurse's Room to the east of the Ward looks down the Ward, but does not open into it, that she may have means of surveillance without loss of privacy. It has its own fire-place.

Beyond the Nurse's Room is a Scullery, with a small range for occasional cooking.

Further east is a Window-hatch for throwing foul linen into a truck outside the building; a sink for slops from the Ward, and a private Closet for the Nurses.

On the other side of the Entrance Corridor is the Casualty Room, with its own proper appliances. A doorway leads hence into the Garden for the use of the Patients.

GARDEN, AND APPROACH.

In the Plan appended to this Report is shewn the relation of the Infirmary to the ground munificently given by Alderman Rowney. This space, of three to four acres, so considerably given by that far-sighted person, has been diminished at the West End by the erection of St. Paul's Church, St. Paul's School, and a now disused and neglected Burial-ground. Somewhat more than two acres are let off as a Market Garden for the sum of twenty-eight pounds a-year. The House has been hereby deprived of all the advantages which accrue to an Institution from handsome grounds well and invitingly maintained; and the Patients have been restricted to a walk round a small plot used as a drying-ground.

This evil has been partially remedied by the generosity of Mr. Combe, who has enabled the Governors to take in hand thirty yards westward from the old building, and by the removal

of a high boundary wall; but as the matter stands, the Institution is debarred from using its own ground to a greater distance than thirty-five yards from the end of the Ward. The Committee are glad to find that the question of the management of the Garden has been referred to three Gentlemen, who will doubtless bestow on it all the care and attention the subject deserves; and they venture to express a hope that the Grounds surrounding the new Ward may be brought into a condition suitable to the building.

The South side of the Accident Ward ought, according to the instructions of the Court, to have been cleared by the removal of the Laundry and Coal-shed; and would have been ere this converted into Garden; but, as has been before reported to the Quarterly Court, the lessee of the adjoining ground raised grave objections to the removal of this building from its present site to that directed by the Court. The Building Committee have therefore taken time to consider what is, under these circumstances, the proper step to be taken: they will confer with the Garden Committee and advise thereon hereafter.

DRAINAGE.

The Drains from the new wing are, it need hardly be said, external to the Building; that is, in the case of every closet they are detached from the main walls, and also leave the building at the nearest convenient point. They are made of 4-inch glazed pipes, jointed with Portland cement, and bedded in clay. They unite with a main 9-inch drain similarly laid, and this passes into the City system to the west of the Infirmary. Man-holes are provided at two points of the main drain; and at the same points charcoal ventilating shafts will be added, according to a plan recommended by Mr. Rawlinson, engineer to the Health Department of the Privy Council.

MORTUARY.

The Mortuary only remains to be described. Formerly there was but one apartment, in which the bodies of deceased Patients lay, the Friends assembled, the Undertaker's duties were discharged, and, when necessary, the Medical inspections were conducted.

This indecent state of things has been remedied, also without charge to the House. A separate Morgue, an Inspection-room, and a small Waiting-room for the Friends, have been fitted up in a convenient spot near the entrance.

II. Cost of the Works.

As far as the Committee are able to ascertain, before the accounts are wound up, the cost of the Works up to the present time may be calculated at about £5,350, to which must be added £720 disbursed by the former Committee. The total sum spent, therefore, is about £6,070, against £6,994 total Receipts. Whatever the surplus may be, the Committee propose to invest it, pending further decision concerning the Laundry, Garden, and other works.

A Balance-sheet will be presented to the Governors as soon as possible, with a list of all the Contributors.

III. Works remaining, Contributions, and Benefactors.

The Committee have now to hand over these works to the Governors of the Institution, with warm feelings of gratitude to those whose generous support has enabled them to complete their task thus far. They say 'thus far,' because various matters of fitting and detail forbid them from offering at once to lay down their office. They would propose to maintain for the present the fabric and the fittings, with a view to making such small alterations or additions as the Medical Staff or the Executive may require.

The Committee, in justice to themselves and to sanitary works in general, have further to observe that the work is not presented as a perfect model, but as the best that they could produce under the circumstances, and as amply sufficient to illustrate on a small scale the general principles on which Hospitals should be constructed. They were required, it will be remembered, to build a new Ward and a Hall for a certain sum, known to be barely sufficient for the purpose; they were instructed to expect no help from the Funds of the Hospital, not even for a crying want, the Mortuary; and they were bound by a personal understanding to erect nothing for which there was not money actually in hand. Thus fettered, they submit their work as a great improvement on what existed before; and as a reasonable return for the confidence and kindness of their many and warm friends and supporters. By the great liberality of these friends the whole has been finished in a way that at first, it was feared, would be impracticable.

They wish further to add that no money has been spent in decoration; what has been done has been done solidly, and it is hoped in good proportion. They began their work by discarding every ornament which added however slightly to the cost, and only by the most rigid care were they able to bring the expenditure within the means which at that time were at their disposal.

The decoration of the Hall is a notable exception. Mr. Hill, the well-known painter of this city, generously expressed a desire to contribute to the works, and has given the entire painting of the large apartment in which you are now assembled. He has not only done this, as is seen, with a very beautiful effect; but by painting the whole, both roof and walls, in substantial oil colour, has added a permanent value to the structure.

The Committee accepted this generous offer the more gladly, in the hope that an Apartment so fitted and warmed may be used as a Convalescent Room for the In-Patients, when unoccupied by the Out-Patients. It cannot but have struck visitors to the Hospital that it would be far better for a large portion of the Patients, if, when not confined to bed, they could spend part of the day away from the Ward, in which they are now obliged to eat, sleep, and live day and night in company with those who are confined entirely to their beds, and who would be benefited by the diminution of numbers in their Ward. It is not beyond their province, perhaps, to add that the Matron, with her usual zeal for the Institution, is quite prepared to carry out the details and supervision of such a plan, if sanctioned by the Governors.

The Committee have much reason to be satisfied with the assiduity as well as the skill of the Architects, Mr. Bramwell and Mr. Bruton. They have been indefatigable in their

superintendence. The Contractor, Mr. Joseph Castle, has throughout the work been ready to undertake any additional trouble to ensure the completion of the work.

The Committee would have advised the Court to confer a Life-Governorship on each of the Ladies who held stalls at the Bazaar, on the late Mayor, who originated the scheme and who had the chief labour of arranging it, and upon the Architects. But they fear that the financial position of the Institution might make such a recommendation vain.

Sir Henry Dashwood, who has hitherto represented the neighbouring Counties on the Building Committee, having left England for some months, the Committee propose that, should their offer of continued superintendence be accepted, His Grace the President be requested to act on the Committee.

There is one other matter which should be here stated. Miss Ashhurst, of Waterstock, has organized, with the consent of the Quarterly Court, a plan for giving soup, without cost to the House, to the Out-Patients who come from a distance on Saturday, and who experience great inconvenience, not to say injury, from abstinence for many hours.

The Committee have been not only charged to prepare a room for this purpose, but have received from the Rev. James Ashhurst the necessary funds for providing a suitable cooking apparatus. This considerate act cannot be too widely known, for it meets a serious evil too commonly felt in County Hospitals.

We have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient and humble Servants,

HENRY W. DASHWOOD, of Kirtlington Park, &c.

HENRY G. LIDDELL, Dean of Christ Church,

F. K. LEIGHTON, Rural Dean of Oxford,

HENRY W. ACLAND, one of the Physicians of the House,

T. RANDALL, Alderman of the City of Oxford,

} *The
Building
Committee.*

EXTRACT FROM "THE GUARDIAN," Nov. 25, 1863.

THE inauguration of a new wing to the Radcliffe Infirmary took place on Saturday last. The additional ward which has just been completed comprises a new accident ward 76 ft. long by 26½ ft. wide and 16 ft. high; a waiting-hall 70 ft. long by 25 ft. wide and 20 ft. high; a bath-room, and six medical officers' rooms, offices, &c. The whole of these extensive works have been carried out by private subscriptions, amounting to about £2,000, a grant from the Trustees of the Radcliffe Infirmary of £1,500, a vote of Convocation of £1,000, and proceeds of the bazaar held during the Commemoration week, which realised about £2,000, making a total of about £7,000. The buildings were designed by Mr. E. G. Bruton and Mr. W. Bramwell of Oxford. The decoration of the walls, roof, &c., has been executed by Mr. G. Hill, decorative painter, of Oxford, at his own cost. The inaugural meeting on Saturday last was in the Out-patients' Hall, when soon after two o'clock the President, HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, took the chair amid much applause.

HIS GRACE, in opening the proceedings, said it was to him, as it must be to all interested in the erection of those buildings, a very great pleasure to meet on that occasion and see the success with which their efforts had been crowned. A great advance had been made in sanitary matters of late years. In proof of this they need only observe the improvements which had taken place in various branches of benevolence, or, as it was now popularly called, social science. Let them look, for instance, at the state of our prisons. When Howard visited the prisons of this country, how frightful was their state, and how little were the comfort and welfare of the inmates considered! whereas now we seemed to be verging into the opposite extreme, and we heard complaints from various quarters that the condition of prisons was made too favourable and too comfortable. But however likely we might be to fall into errors of that kind in that department, it was by no means likely we could fall into similar errors in branches of benevolence such as were connected with an Institution like this. (Applause.) It was impossible that the poor sufferers who came into this Institution could be made too comfortable. They might thank God, therefore, that this great question was now receiving from every quarter a careful attention, with a view to reduce the treatment of sufferers in hospitals to a science, so that all the arts of the present day and all their powers of ingenuity and contrivance might be applied towards alleviating their sufferings in every possible way. It must be a matter of the greatest thankfulness that a lady like Miss Nightingale had been raised up to give an impetus to benevolence of this character—(applause)—and from that lady's exertions he believed they might date a new era in hospitals, for in the erection of such institutions every appliance which art and science could devise was now furnished. (Applause.) Great as were the merits and untiring as were the exertions of medical men in country districts, it was impossible that they could bring to bear in the treatment of various cases that amount of professional experience and ability as the officers of an hospital where similar cases were daily under their notice. After testifying from his own experience to the great demand for out-patients' tickets in rural districts, his Grace commented on the fact that hitherto a hundred out-patients had been crowded into a room only 23 feet by 6 feet 6 inches, waiting for medicine, and pointed out the discomfort and positive aggravation of their maladies which that state of things involved. He expressed his gratification that this would no longer be the case, and warmly acknowledged the liberality and exertions of the University, City, and County, and particularly of the ladies, by whom this result had been achieved. Much credit was due to the gentleman who occupied the position of Mayor of this city, with whom the proposition of holding a bazaar originated, but if the ladies had not given themselves to that work it would have been impossible to realise that large amount which had enabled them to erect that beautiful building in which they were now assembled. (Applause.) He thought, however, that it would not be right to overlook that much remained yet to be done, for he trusted that a new era was opening in the history of this building, and that they had passed out of the old times when it was thought sufficient to scramble on in a humdrum way, and when anything was considered good enough for the poor, so long as they received their medicine and had their arms and legs cut off. (Laughter.) They must not be looked on as *capita mortua*, but as our own flesh and blood, our brothers and sisters—(applause)—and in that spirit undertaking their cure and responsibility. He hoped, therefore, they would agree with him that old things had passed away, and that they would not be held back by any trifling obstacles in regard to small matters of economy. He did not mean that economy should not be practised, but it was the slothful man who said, "There is a lion in the way;" but having entered upon a new era, it should be the honour and pride of the University, City, and County to make this an institution worthy of their joint position. (Applause.) His Grace then adverted to the important benefits which convalescent patients derived from gardens being attached to hospitals, and remarked that while in France last summer, he visited the Naval and Military Hospital at Rochefort, and he could not refrain from saying that the French

were far ahead of us in these matters, for the beauty, cleanliness, order, elegance, and refined comforts of that Hospital were beyond all praise. There were rooms in which ladies and gentlemen might have resided with the greatest ease, and every nicety of arrangement was such as to give comfort and meet the taste and gratification of the patients. There was a beautiful garden in front with avenues of trees, where the convalescent patients were seen taking the exercise which was so beneficial to them. After urging the propriety of imitating this policy as far as practicable, his Grace expressed his gratification that a chapel was in the course of erection at the sole cost of Mr. Combe, of the University Press. (Much applause.) In this step, again, a new era was manifested. Their patients were to be treated not merely as creatures, but as responsible beings, whose spiritual as well as bodily interests demanded attention, and he earnestly hoped that when the time arrived for considering the question of the appointment of a resident chaplain it would be resolved upon. (Applause.) That had been done in large hospitals in other places, and the most salutary influences had accrued, and he trusted that they would not allow party feeling or the unhappy prejudices existing in some minds to sway them in regard to the important interests of the patients committed to their charge. (Applause.) His Grace concluded by congratulating the company on the auspicious occasion which had called them together.

The DEAN OF CHRIST CHURCH, Chairman of the Building Committee, then read a long report of the works which had been carried out.

The REV. E. R. KEENE moved, and the WARDEN OF MERTON COLLEGE seconded, a formal vote requesting the Building Committee to continue their services. The DEAN OF CHRIST CHURCH then handed the keys to the President, and formally made over the building to the Governors of the Institution.

The PRESIDENT said in the name of the Governors he accepted the keys, and cordially thanked the Building Committee for their great assiduity and untiring exertions in undertaking and completing this work.

The REV. F. TRENCH made some few observations on the important additions to the Infirmary, and congratulated the meeting on being presided over by the noble Duke, who yearly handed over to it a large sum, the proceeds from visitors to Blenheim Palace. (Applause.)

At this stage of the proceedings, the BISHOP OF OXFORD, who had been engaged in laying the foundation of a new church at Windsor, arrived, and was received with much applause.

The meeting then adjourned to inspect the new accident ward, &c. Mr. R. Rawlinson, of the Health Department of the Privy Council, and who is now superintending Government works in Lancashire, had been expected to attend and explain the principles upon which a hospital ward should be constructed, but in his unavoidable absence,

DR. ACLAND, Regius Professor of Medicine, briefly addressed the meeting. He said it would not be worth while to detain the meeting by any lengthened account of the many details noticeable in a work such as the present. Nor would he attempt to supply the place of so skilled a sanitary engineer as Mr. Rawlinson by enunciating the general manner in which sanitary regulations were to be carried out in hospitals and elsewhere. He would only say that in a hospital the object was—tiresome as it might be—to place the sick person in the best possible circumstances of air, dwelling, food, and medical treatment. Good food and proper medicines might be made nugatory in improper dwellings and bad air; just as good dwellings might be rendered useless by bad food or bad medical treatment. In this building the Committee had endeavoured to furnish all the general sanitary conditions which belong to a hospital ward. The Report had named them. But in the Oxford Hospital, he continued, the care of the sick poor was not all. He must not speak for them only, but for his professional colleagues—for the University and for the Church. Foreigners, and especially Roman Catholics, so skilled in providing in their institutions not only what was necessary but what was pleasing, saw in our hospital here the standard of the knowledge and care bestowed on it by an important district, and a great central institution closely connected with the national Church. The young clergy and young landlords educated here took yearly our standard into their several parishes and counties. The work of this day would cheer many a sad heart. There were struggling surgeons spread all over the country who could scarce obtain what was needed for the poor, not from the ill-will but from the scant knowledge of proprietors or ministers. The wise words of the Duke, the strong appeal of the Dean from the University pulpit, would have done their work. Gradually the numbers would increase of those influential persons who had the knowledge as well as the will to support all wise and liberal measures of hospital management, with all the consequences, and who would be able to judge correctly concerning measures destined to raise in any way the standard of public health. For these reasons he thought the erection of these buildings of more consequence than their mere size or the numbers they accommodate would imply.

The BISHOP OF OXFORD, who was again received with great applause, said he gladly responded to the call made upon him to say a few words, and he regretted that he was not able to be present at an earlier period, so as to be enabled to enter more completely into the whole compass of what they had been doing, and to avoid touching upon things which had been said by others, and better said than they could be by him. As it was, he ventured to touch upon the leading points which struck his own mind, and therefore he would take up the remarks of Dr. Acland, which seemed to him to contain the whole pith of the question. Undoubtedly, in whatever way they looked at this city, whether in its connection with the University, or as the centre of an extensive district, they ought to have the best possible provision for the sick and injured

patients; for if they set a low tone, that tone would be perpetuated and disseminated in every direction. Young men passing through the University would take their standard from what they saw done here, and would consider that if they went a little below what was fixed here, they would be doing enough in places of a less metropolitan character; and therefore whatever was faulty in their arrangements here would be certain, humanly speaking, to reproduce itself in other places. They all knew how difficult it was to keep a fixed note high and clear—how men sank down to a lower one; and therefore it was of special importance that Oxford should strike such a note as would enable those who took their tone from it to raise their institutions to the proper level. And really the whole matter of hospitals for the poor was so essentially a Christian idea that he did not see how it was possible for them to be contented with less. He believed there was not the least doubt that until Christianity came to renovate the earth such a thing as a hospital for the poor was never known. They might have searched ancient Rome through and found every conceivable provision and pleasure for the rich, the powerful, and the wealthy, and for the multitude when they possessed the power,—spectacles of an imposing and magnificent character, baths of the most luxurious description,—but they would have found no provision for misery or want. Humanity had sunk so near to the mere animal level, that it was with them as it was with animals, when the diseased one had to leave the herd in which it could no longer find sympathy, and creep into a corner to die. (Applause.) But it was Christianity that redressed this mighty evil, that taught what humanity was, and shewed in the Eternal Son what it might be, for He who came to redeem man spent a large portion of the little time of His public ministration in healing diseases and bodily suffering. Thus medicine and the healing art itself took a new start from Christianity—it was elevated into its proper place—it was felt to be that which had been done by the Son of Man when upon earth, and that science and knowledge of every kind, especially in those departments which gave man dominion over the lower earth, was in future to be elevated and not to be degraded when spending itself freely in ministering to the most destitute of mankind. (Applause.) And there was this especial blessing about this kind of work—that they did not, in providing these, teach men to be wrongfully dependent upon the help of others. No charity which relaxed the springs of exertion was a wholesome gift. It might be necessary under certain circumstances, but it must necessarily be accompanied with a great evil. But an accident ward for the poor was just that kind of charity which blessed without those drawbacks, in no degree tending to relax self-effort and self-dependence, but bringing the aid of the charitable hand to the suffering man at a time and under conditions when he could not make any exertion for providing for himself. Well, if that was a true view, one or two conclusions followed. The first was that there should be nothing niggardly or mean in their way of dealing with such a subject. Everything which implied charity being pared down to the lowest possible measure was an evil and not a good. In dealing with rates for the poor, they were bound to act upon that principle, because they extracted the poor-rate from the man who was only just above the receiver of the rate, and therefore they must pare everything down to the lowest possible degree that would just effect their purpose. But everything connected with Christian charity should have in it something magnificent; instead of the spirit of grudging there should be something of the feeling of the Great Pattern and some of the magnificence of self-sacrifice in those who provided it. (Applause.) After expressing his conviction that more generous arrangements would evoke greater liberality on the part of the public, his Lordship referred to the chapel now in progress, through the munificence of one individual, Mr. Combe, and all honour to him for it, for it was a most important addition to the Institution. Nothing could be worse, he thought, than to associate the worship of God and the religious time spent by its inmates with make-shifts and niggardliness. He trusted there would be a resident chaplain, and he wished this, first of all, as everyone would see, on directly religious grounds, for there might be inmates to whom the speaking of a few words in times of affliction would make the difference of a life. The word spoken in due season, how good it is; and surely this was the due season. But, irrespective of this, he believed the residence of a clergyman amongst medical officers and nurses of such an Institution was, on secondary grounds, of the highest importance. There was in every profession a tendency to become narrow and professional; and in the medical profession, great and high as it was, if there was nothing perpetually to raise the tone and invest it with those higher characteristics which ought to belong to it in a Christian institution, there was a tendency to grow professional and narrow, and, at least in the impression it left in the minds of the recipients, hard. God forbid that he should say that there was anything really hard in the mind of the medical man, but the presence of a dominant and all-absorbing professional feeling would very often leave the impression of hardness, and he thought the presence of a clergyman among such a body of men was exactly that which would prevent it, bringing down, as it were, the atmosphere of a higher world not only around the patient's bed, but around the hearts and intelligences of those who were ministering to him. (Applause.) The Right Rev. Prelate concluded by expressing a confident hope that the proceedings of that day would inaugurate a new era in the management of this great Institution, and in its influence not merely on the poor and afflicted, but, according to the blessed law of charity, on those whom Providence enabled to sympathize with the afflicted, and for Christ's sake with the distressed. The Bishop then closed the proceedings with prayer.

In this country, institutions for the relief of suffering, except of that of extreme destitution, are not provided by the State, but left to the spontaneous act of individuals and associations. It follows that they are, in one sense, very imperfect. They have many of the faults incidental to want of system and of central control, to the interference of lower motives, to the natural indolence of men disposed rather to be content with the good they have done than to make the effort of thinking how they may do better now.

On the other hand, our charitable institutions, imperfect as they are, have at least the merit of being unfettered, except by the want of support. They are free to improve; they are open to criticism. Where there is a real evil, it is sure to be found out. And though it may cost some hard work to rouse the public to admit or to care about the evil, those who set themselves to work in earnest, not to talk at imaginary grievances, but to work at the remedy for real evils, will not long want the help of warm hearts, clear heads, and willing hands.

Nor when work is well begun will it be long before some powerful mind in a high and commanding station seizes the principle, and expounds it with so much clearness and eloquence as to ensure progress in the right direction.

We are glad to record that Oxford—University, city, and county—is not far behind in the attempt to act on the principles of Florence Nightingale when dealing with the humble sufferers of an ordinary English population.

The opening of the New Ward at the Radcliffe Infirmary on the 21st gives occasion for the general remarks now made.

It might be expected that the hospital connected with a great University should be a model of good scientific arrangement, and of kindly considerate treatment of the poor. That the Radcliffe Infirmary does now present a satisfactory sample of what is called a "Ward Unit" complete in all its arrangements, and capable of imitation in other country hospitals, and worthy of consideration by the managers of great urban institutions, is due to the courage, foresight, and untiring perseverance of the committee which has erected the new buildings.

As the Report of the Building Committee, presented to the Duke of Marlborough, accompanied by the plans of the architects, Mr. Bramwell and Mr. Bruton, may be purchased of Messrs. Parker for a shilling, it is needless to enter into details.

Nor, if any attempt were made to report the impression made on an irresponsible bystander by the speeches of the Duke of Marlborough, by the clear tones of the Dean in reading the report, by the few words uttered by Dr. Acland, and, above all, by the earnest, calm, and lucid speech of the Bishop of Oxford, — could such a report do more than weaken the effect which those recorded words will produce on every reader who reflects on what is involved in the two issues raised by the Bishop and illustrated by the other speakers and by the report of the committee.

Assuming that relief of suffering poor in Christian England is of two kinds—that which is extracted from the ratepayers, and that which is freely given by Christians to their afflicted neighbours,—

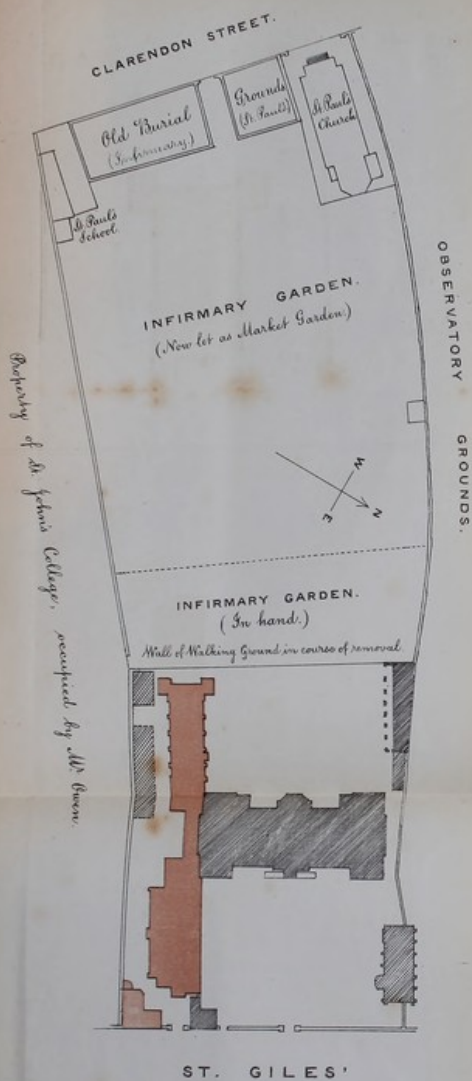
1st. Is it not right that the economy, the jealous and stringent restrictions on any expenditure not indispensable, necessary in the one case, should in the other case give way to the higher object of exhibiting the best practicable model of wise, considerate, and enlightened relief of suffering?

2nd. Does it not follow that a Christian University is especially called upon to set before young physicians, young clergymen, young country gentlemen, the best, and not the second-best, appliances which modern science, in the hands of educated medical men, aided by clergymen and ladies, can provide for their poorer brethren and sisters, not only in order that they may be cured, but that they may be made comfortable and cheerful?

The effect of the two conflicting but mutually supporting principles "permitted by the providence of God to grow out of the mixed wilfulness and strong sense of our Anglo-Saxon race," in reference to union and hospital management, was temperately discussed by Dr. Acland in his "Memoir on the Cholera," published seven years ago. The proper functions to be discharged by a voluntary or subscriptional hospital were shewn to include—

1. A standard of medical and surgical science and practice, and the means of promoting both.
2. A model of economical arrangement and of scientific sanitary appliances.
3. A pattern of the manner of managing the sick, under whatever aspect they may be considered.

Plan A.



NEW ACCIDENT WARD.

- a. Bath Room.
- b. Closets.
- c. Fire-place.
- d. do.
- e. Nurse's Room.
- f. Scullery.
- g. Linen Closet.
- h. Sink.
- i. Closet.

CASUALTY ROOM.

- a. Closet and Sink.

NEW SHOP.

- a. House Hatch.
- b. Out-patients' Hatch.
- c. do.
- d. Delivery of Medicines.
- e. Officers' Corridor.

OUT-PATIENTS' HALL.

- A. Entrance.
- a. Clinical Professor.
- b. Surgeon's Room.
- c. Physician's Room.
- d. Surgeon's Room.
- e. Physician's Room.
- f. Surgeon's Room.
- g. Men's Closet.
- h. Women's Closet.
- i. Bath Room.
- k. Fountain.

MORTUARY.

- a. Friend's Room.
- b. Morgue.
- c. Medical Officer's Room.

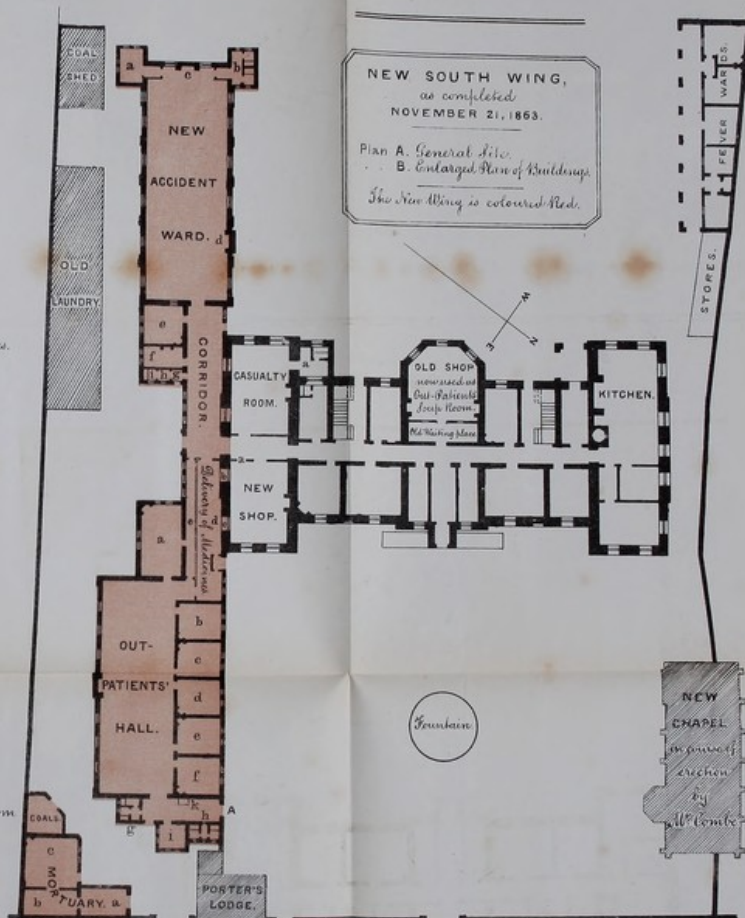
W.C.C. BRAMWELL } Architects
E. G. BRUTON.

Plan B.

RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY,
OXFORD.

NEW SOUTH WING,
as completed
NOVEMBER 21, 1863.

Plan A. General Site.
B. Enlarged Plan of Buildings.
The New Wing is coloured Red.



ST. GILES'

Scale 1/4 of an inch to a foot.

