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DARENTH PARK HOSPITAL

DARTFORD

-

KENT

Administered by:
DARENTH & STONE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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SIR FREDERICK WELLS, Bt.

Physician Superintendent:
J. K. COLLIER LAING, M.B., B.S., D.P.M.

Secretary:
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DARENTH PARK HOSPITAL, Nr. Dartford, is situated on one of the highest points in North West Kent, surrounded by its own farm lands and has accommodation for over 2,000 male and female patients. It is an important hospital dealing with the great problem of mental deficiency.

In most cases this condition is hereditary, but can also be caused by disease or injury during the early years of life while the brain is developing.

Some of our patients need every care and attention because of being bedridden and crippled, or due to the fact that their mental retardation is so great they are unable to develop mentally beyond the baby stage.

The majority, however, are of varied mental ages up to the high grade patients who are not to be easily distinguished from average normal individuals.

Girls and women with a vocation, and of sound physique and health, are needed to help these of life's unfortunates, and could not make a wiser choice than to undertake service at this hospital.

Your sympathy, care, friendship, interest and example could help many towards the goal we desire, that of enabling them to live successfully in the outside community with their families and relatives, or in resident posts, as stable self supporting citizens.



Nurses' General Recreation Room



Dining Room



Nurses' Home



Quiet Room



A Nurses' Bedroom

FEMALE nursing staff, except those with homes or accommodation in the vicinity of the Hospital, live in our Nurses' Home, which is a modern well equipped residence.

The rooms are attractively furnished and all have a good outlook; on one side there being a beautiful panoramic view of the Darenth Valley.

On the ground floor are the dining, recreation rooms and lecture room, the latter being extremely well furnished with all modern teaching apparatus and equipment. Adjacent is the very attractive "Quiet Room" for study, reading and writing, containing a Medical and Fiction Library.

A television set has recently been installed in the general recreation room in addition to the piano and radio set.

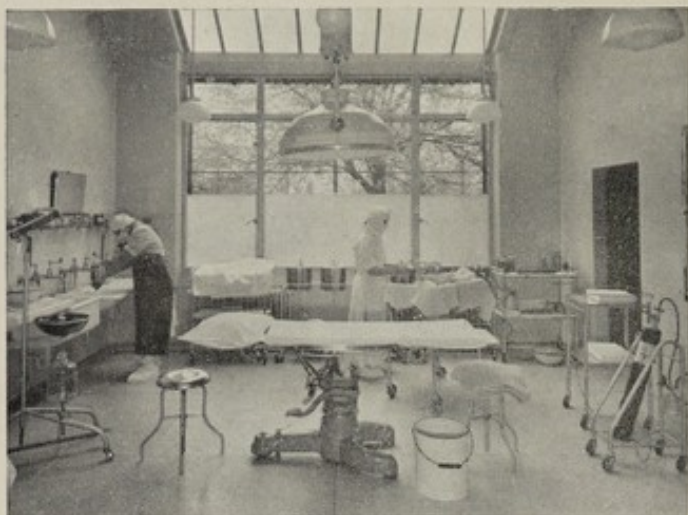
In the same building there are also shampoo rooms, tea-making rooms, storage room for trunks, and two specially equipped units where staff can launder personal linen themselves; electric irons are also provided.

There is a Public Call Box in an ante-room on the ground floor.

A Staff Sports and Social Club is most efficiently run by members of the Hospital and provides amenities for all, such as badminton, tennis, cricket, football, dances, socials, indoor games, etc. Tournaments, competitions and seasonal fixtures are arranged; also provision for parties to attend theatres, spectacles of interest and the seaside.

A general Club Room has recently been acquired, situated near the entrance gate, where friends can be entertained and given light refreshment in the evenings. It is nicely furnished and has a radiogram, billiard table, table tennis tables and dartboards.

Darenth Park is a short bus ride out of Dartford. As well as the service buses, No. 423, our own conveyance travels to and from Dartford Station five times daily, where trains to London can be obtained every few minutes.



Operating Theatre



Hospital Block



Lecture Room



Ward 40



Staff Sick Bay

DARENTH PARK is a Training School, recognised by the General Nursing Council, for Nurses for Mental Defectives.

The period of training is for three years.

Students spend the first eight weeks in the Preliminary Training School for some elementary teaching, after which they are allocated to the various wards for periods throughout their training, in order to gain knowledge of all types of Mental Defectives.

There are special wards for the Epileptic, Low Grade, Senile and Crippled, and many non-observation wards for High Grade Patients who manage most of the ward routine affairs themselves.

A most important unit is the Hospital Block with its adjoining operating theatre, dental clinic and physiotherapy department, where there is accommodation for 23 male and 23 female acute medical and surgical cases.

Visiting surgeons and specialists are available to deal with any operative treatment necessary, and experience in this unit is comparable to that in the most modern General Hospital.

Students also gain valuable bedside nursing experience in Ward 40 which is for bedridden, senile and crippled patients (female) and Ward 20 (male).

Adjoining this Ward is the Staff Sick Bay.

Staff have access to the large occupational therapy centres of this Hospital, where patients are taught many trades and handicrafts by skilled trainers.

Lectures are given by the Medical Officers and Sister Tutor, and special visits are arranged to a Sewage Disposal Works, Milking Parlour, Water Well and the water filtration and chlorination plant.

During the first year students are taught Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene, First Aid and the Theory and Practice of Nursing, Part I, and prepared for the General Nursing Council Preliminary Examination which is arranged in two parts. Part I can be taken after six months, or Parts I and II together at the termination of a year's service.

Subjects covered during the 2nd and 3rd years are Bodily Diseases and Disorders, Advanced Nursing Procedures, Psychology and Mental Deficiency.

At the termination of the three year training period, the student undertakes the Final Examination. Successful candidates are entered in the Supplementary Register of the General Nursing Council as Registered Nurses for Mental Defectives.

This valuable qualification leads to rapid promotion in this Hospital and renders the nurse eligible for a reduced period of training in another branch of the nursing service, e.g. 2 years instead of 3 for General Training.



Large Hall, Stage View



Hospital Block, Outside View



Front Hall



A Ward in the Pavilion



Club Room

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Nursing Staff work a 96 hour fortnight.

The three shift system is in vogue, so that as well as having a complete day off duty every week, the staff are always off during the mornings one week and afternoons the next. A week end falls every 7th week.

One long day is worked weekly while her partner has a day off duty.

Night Staff have two nights off duty weekly.

ANNUAL LEAVE—

One month with full pay. Usually taken in two fortnights.

STUDENT NURSES

	Annual Cash training allowance		Deductions if resident	
1st year	£255	(97/10)	£108	(41/5)
2nd year	£265	(101/8)	£108	(41/5)
3rd year	£280	(107/5)	£108	(41/5)

(The figures in brackets indicate the equivalent weekly rates)

Other allowances :

- (i) **Proficiency** :—(a) ¹⁴⁰£20 on completion of the second year of training or the passing of the preliminary examination, whichever is the later.
- (b) ⁵⁰£30 on completion of the third year of training or the passing of the final examination, whichever is the later.
- (ii) **Dependant's** :—In specified circumstances allowances may be claimed by students with family responsibilities (viz. 10/- weekly for wife or adult dependant and 5/- weekly for the first child).

Class II	increments of £10 to £270	290			5
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*NOTE :—The incremental date is the 1st April in each year and normally increments will be granted if not less than six months have been served in the grade.

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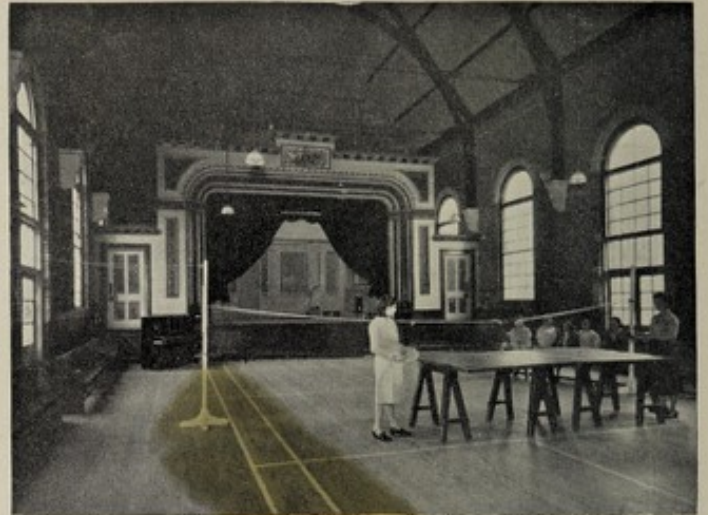
NURSING STAFF, FEMALE. (Full Time)

GRADE	ANNUAL SALARY	DEDUCTIONS		
		Resident	Non-Resident	
			with meals on duty	without meals
Ward Sister	* £445 ⁴⁷⁰ rising by seven annual increments of £15 and one of £20 to £570 ⁵⁹⁵	£ 145	£ 30	£ 5
Deputy Ward Sister	* £420 ⁴⁴⁵ rising by eight annual increments of £12-10 to £520 ⁵⁴⁵	135	30	5
Staff Nurse	* £380 ⁴⁰⁵ rising by eight annual increments of £12-10 to £480 ⁵⁰⁵	135	30	5
Nursing Assistants Class I	* £310 ³³⁵ rising by eight annual increments of £12-10 and one of £10 to £425	132	30	5
Nursing Assistants Class II	£250 ²⁶⁰ rising by two annual increments of £10 to £270 ²⁹⁰	108	30	5

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Chapel



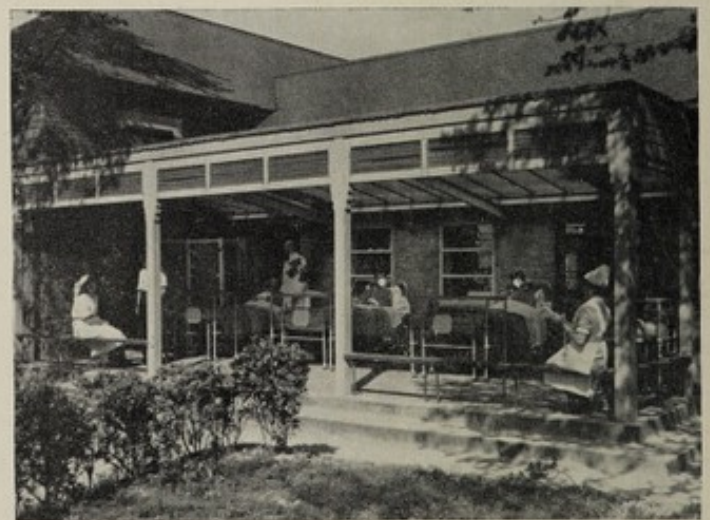
Badminton Hall



Scene from Pantomime



Small Needleroom



Hospital Block Verandah

MINISTERS of various religious denominations pay frequent visits to the sick and those needing advice and comfort, and undertake regular services. Staff are always welcome upon these occasions.

In order to fit our patients for life in the general community suitable training is given them, either in the occupational centres or other departments of the Hospital such as the Nurses' Home, Laundry, Kitchen, Farm, etc., according to their aptitudes and capacities exhibited. Weekly cash rewards are given.

Patients enjoy mixed dances, held twice weekly in the Large Hall. The Band is formed almost wholly of male patients.

Film shows are given twice weekly and are most popular.

For the patients who are somewhat infirm and unable to get to the Large Hall, a 16 mm. projector gives special shows in the wards.

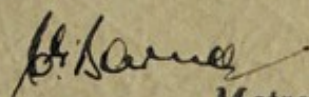
Many of our patients are interested in Guiding and there are in existence two very smart Companies of Rangers, the 3rd and 5th Dartford Companies (extension). They undertake all the activities of the Organization and compete favourably with other Companies they meet outside the Hospital at Camp and other Functions.

A most happy atmosphere and spirit of comradeship between patients, staff and Hospital Management Committee prevails here. There is a Joint Staff Consultative Committee.

WE NEED STAFF and can offer you a most satisfying career, BUT MORE THAN THIS you have the opportunity of giving service in its highest sense to the sadly handicapped people whom it is our privilege to care for at this Hospital.

The Physician Superintendent, Dr. J. K. Collier Laing, joins me in extending you a cordial invitation to visit here. We would welcome your Parents too.

Yours sincerely,


Matron.

