

school children a week in the ophthalmic and aural departments, subject to the payment of £150 a year for the salaries of the clinical assistants, as well as two shillings a head for each child treated, no rights of inspection or control being allowed. It has been found in practice that, instead of a tendency for this number to increase, it has been rarely equaled, three or four cases a day having been sent in place of the expected half-dozen. The reason of this, no doubt, has been the want of coincidence between the ages of the children when inspected by the Council and the age limit set by the hospital. As stated above, the hospital receives children up to twelve years of

age; the final inspection by the Council takes place at fourteen, so that only the primary and intermediate school inspections affect the hospitals.

It will be seen, then, that the payment of the mortgage debt is the main factor in the situation. But it must be added there is an accumulated deficit of over £5,000. Against this must be set Mr. Silver's legacy. Various smaller matters deserve attention, the principal of which is the absence of electric light in certain wards and nurses' quarters. In other words, the hospital has settled down to steady progress on the improved lines made possible by the purchase of the neighbouring site and by the structural alterations that resulted from it.

HOSPITAL ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION.

[Communications on this subject should be marked "Architecture" in the left-hand top corner of the envelope.]

A COMPLETE WARD UNIT FOR A MODERN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

By YOUNG and HALL, F.F.R.I.B.A.

This plan shows two complete units, one medical, the other surgical.

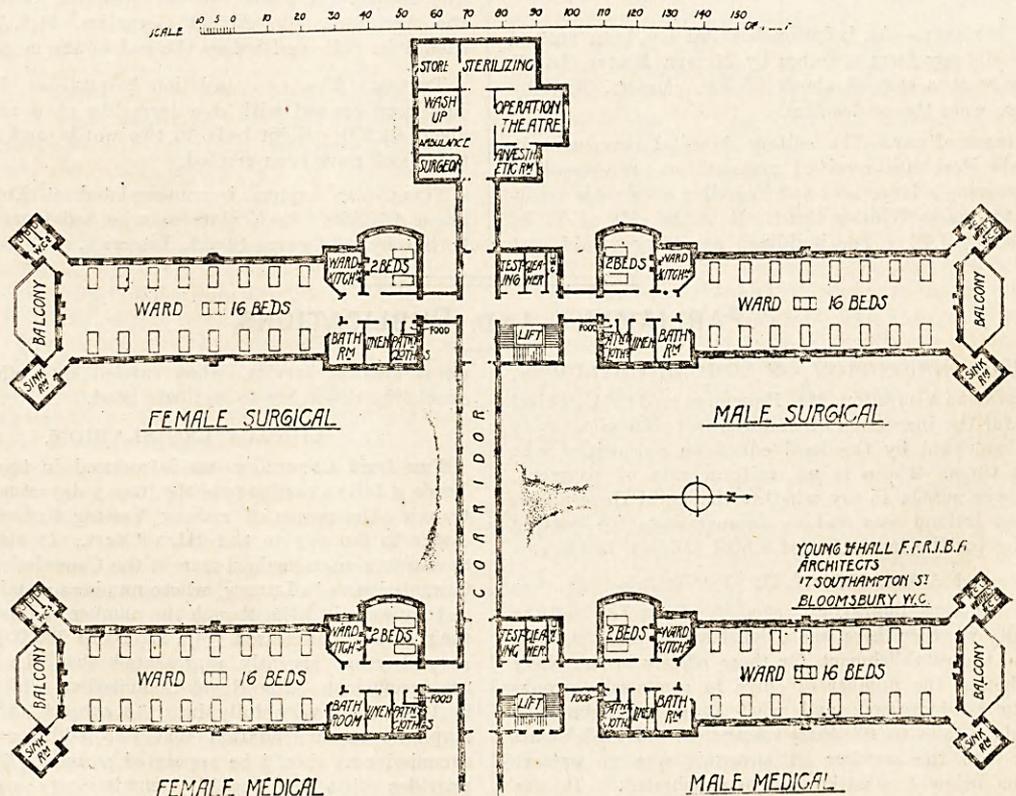
ESSENTIALS.

A ward unit to be complete should comprise wards for both sexes, with all the necessary offices, and should be planned with a view to its being under the control of one sister. Opinions as to the maximum number of beds which one sister can properly supervise differ; but if the number is large the sister's duties will more nearly approximate to those of a matron than if they are small enough to allow of her personally supervising the work of her nurses. In

fixing the size of the wards at sixteen beds we have had in mind rather the needs of a general hospital in a provincial town of moderate size, and where no medical school exists.

THE SISTER'S ROOM.

Another point on which much difference of opinion exists among matrons of great experience is the provision of a sister's room adjoining the wards. The view expressed recently by a matron of a large hospital, who had been trained in one of the largest hospitals in the country, is that where a



PLAN SHOWING TWO WARD UNITS—MEDICAL AND SURGICAL.

sister has charge of anything like fifty beds or over she should have a small room in which to do the necessary bookkeeping, which forms part of her work, and in which to interview nurses and servants. But it should be an office, and not her sitting-room for use when off duty.

CORRIDORS.

The corridor connecting the two blocks would on the ground floor only be closed in at the sides.

This is to afford access for patients from the medical wards to the operation theatre, a necessity which does arise occasionally. On the floors above a covered way open at the sides will suffice.

We have not followed the Glasgow plan in putting the house physician's and house surgeon's rooms within their respective units. It seems to us far better to group the quarters for the residents in the administrative part of the building rather than to scatter them about in the various ward units.

BUILDINGS CONTEMPLATED AND IN PROGRESS.

LONDON.—Mr. Edwin T. Hall, F.R.I.B.A., is architect for the new nurses' home at the London Homœopathic Hospital in Great Ormond Street. It contains separate bedrooms for seventy nurses. Messrs. Prestige and Co. are the contractors.

BRANDON (DURHAM).—An isolation hospital is proposed to contain twenty beds. Particulars may be had from the Surveyor to the Urban District Council, Mr. G. G. Donkin.

BIGGLESWADE.—Mr. Walter Jackson is architect for the proposed alterations to the Union Workhouse Infirmary. Tenders are invited and are to be delivered not later than June 6.

CRANBROOK.—Alterations are contemplated to the Cranbrook Infirmary; forms of tender may be had from Mr. C. Payne, Surveyor, Cranbrook, and are to be returned before May 30.

CARDIFF.—At the Cardiff Infirmary there has just been opened a new gynaecological operating-theatre at a cost of £2,500.

EAST MOLESEY.—An isolation hospital has been erected at East Molesey from a design by Messrs. Foster, Lovell and Lodge at a cost of about £3,336. Messrs. Appleby and Sons were the contractors.

ELLESMERE PORT.—The cottage hospital movement in Ellesmere Port has received material encouragement in a site covering a large area and including a valuable frontage to the main Whitby Road. It is the gift of E. P. Jones, Esq., J.P. The buildings necessary would cost

between £2,000 and £3,000, and require an annual income of £600.

GLOUCESTER.—With reference to the proposed new infirmary the Board of Guardians have appointed a deputation to meet the Local Government Board upon the question.

LURGAN.—Messrs. Hobart and Heron, architects, of Belfast, have charge of the Union Workhouse at Lurgan, to cost about £2,000.

NEWARK.—The tenders have now been received for the isolation hospital referred to in our issue April 29, the one accepted amounting to £2,344, by Mr. W. Smith, Millgate, Newark.

STAVERTON.—In connection with the suggested isolation hospital, information will be given by the Daventry Rural District Council's Surveyor, Mr. J. B. Williams.

TRURO.—Builders desirous of tendering for the proposed additions to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro may inspect the plans and specifications at the office of the Architect, Mr. Alfred Cornelius, M.S.A. Prices should be delivered before the end of the month.

THIRSK.—The new isolation hospital at Thirsk has just been opened with due formality at a total cost of about £1,500. Eight beds, in two wards, and administrative block have been erected.

TULLA.—An asylum is contemplated at Tulla to cost about £10,000. Particulars may be had from Mr. B. E. F. Sheehy, 57 George Street, Limerick.

PARLIAMENT AND PUBLICATIONS.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

REPLYING to a question, Mr. Runciman said that medical officers for the inspection of children in public elementary schools are paid by the local education authorities who appoint them. There is no uniform rate of payment, and he was unable to say whether the Local Government Board in Ireland was making arrangements for putting the order for the inspection of school children in force.

NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether there was a deficiency of sixty-six surgeons on the establishment for those officers in the Navy list; whether the number of ships in commission would probably be increased, and what steps the Admiralty intended to take to fill these vacancies? Mr. McKenna replied that the number of surgeons was at present fifty-four below the authorised establishment. It was hoped that the recommendations of the committee on the

naval medical service, when carried into effect, would enable the deficiency to be made good.

LUNACY LEGISLATION.

THE Lord Chancellor has introduced in the House of Lords a Bill to amalgamate the lunacy departments and to transfer the power of making Vesting Orders from the Judge in Lunacy to the High Court. It also proposes to add two more medical men to the Commissioners. The Commissioners in Lunacy, whose numbers remain the same as they were in 1845, though the number of lunatics under their care has increased from 25,000 to 120,000, have for several years urgently represented that their numbers are insufficient. The Royal Commission, which reported in 1908, went very fully into the subject, and made an emphatic recommendation that two additional medical commissioners should be appointed at once. The scheme provides that the unpaid commissioners may include women.