

THE WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY, PATRINGTON UNION, EAST YORKSHIRE.

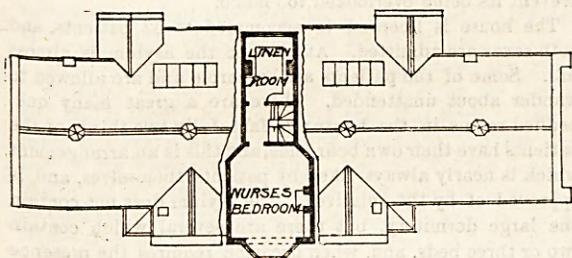
THIS is a small infirmary containing only 18 beds, and might therefore be described as a cottage hospital. It follows the usual arrangement of a centre and two wings. The former contains the day-rooms, nurses' room, special wards for two beds each, and a bath-room. The bath-room is so placed that it can be used by either men or women; and it projects southwards 5 or 6 feet, thus separating the men's verandah from the women's. Each day-room is lighted by two windows and a dormer. The nurses' duty-room occupies the centre of the north elevation, and has the male special ward on one side and the female on the other, both being commanded from the nurses' room by observation windows. There are two entrances, one for each sex, on the north side. The whole of this section has been care-

main by cross-ventilating passages; and they are so arranged that they can be approached from either the day-room or the dormitory. It is evident that the architects have much ability in the planning of small hospitals, and this makes us more regret the faults in the small special wards, as otherwise the infirmary would have been for its size an extremely good one. Even with these drawbacks it is distinctly above the average.

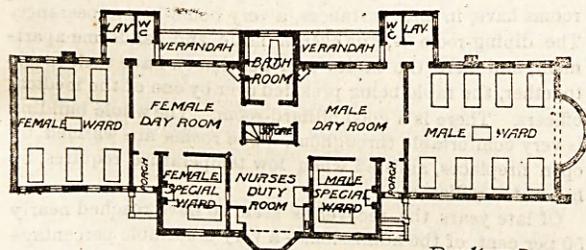
The building is carried out in red stock bricks, and is covered with Wolliscroft tiles. The floors are of maple. Twyford's sanitary fittings are used. The architects were Messrs. Runton and Barry, of Hull, and Mr. Sergeant was contractor. The cost was something over £2,000, and this would be about £112 per bed, a sum by no means extravagant nowadays; but it must be remembered that the infirmary is merely an adjunct to an existing institution, hence requires no administrative sections.

WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY
PATRINGTON UNION.

10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 FT



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

fully thought out, and must be pronounced successful except that the special wards present the old difficulty of inadequate cross-ventilation. These rooms each contain 168 superficial feet of floor-space, that is 84 feet per bed, which is hardly enough for any special case, or indeed for many ordinary cases, as with 12-foot ceilings the space would work out at 1,008 cubic feet per bed. It would have been a very great improvement to draw these rooms 6 feet northwards, and so provide them with end bay-windows and with side windows too. The nurses' room would be shorn of its bay, and the general elevation would not be so pleasing; but in planning a hospital efficiency of internal arrangements should come first. The male dormitory contains eight beds, and each bed is properly provided with a window on both sides. In addition there is a fine circular window at the west end. The female dormitory is for six beds, and the arrangements are similar, except that the circular bay is absent; an unaccountable omission it seems to us. The lavatory and closet blocks are well cut off from the

THE CULT OF THE "MAISONETTE."

THE report of Dr. F. Graham Crookshank, Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Barnes, is exceptionally interesting. Having the sanitary charge of a district where building operations are largely altering the character of a once rural neighbourhood, he can see in these a change which largely reflects a change in the spirit of the age. Where but yesterday, or at least last year, were open spaces, long rows of terrace houses and tenements are springing up. Many of these are what are called "maisonettes," by which term is meant a double tenement—a building which looks like a house for one family, but is meant to accommodate two, one on the lower and one on the upper story. The maisonette is very popular now, especially with that branch of the middle class which is just in danger of being reckoned as artisan. Its frontage looks, if one does not examine so closely as to perceive the two glass doors under the archway, just like a self-contained house at double the rental, and there is a large class of people to whom it is a constant consolation to keep up the appearance of having twice as much as they actually possess. These are the people who patronise the maisonette. They are not to be regarded scornfully, these people, for their very preference for this kind of house, "cabined, cribbed, confined," as they are in it, often implies a certain refinement which makes them wish to isolate themselves from the kind of people with whom their limited income might force them to associate if they chose a larger residence in a cheaper locality. That is one reason why they prefer the small tenement to the larger house which they might occupy in another place. Dr. Crookshank, indeed, assigns another cause—"the desire for amusement and 'luxury' that increasingly obtains among the lower middle and upper working classes: a desire which can only be gratified when the increase of families is restricted, and domestic expenditure, as on house-rent, is curtailed."

Whatever the reason for the popularity of these dwellings, the sanitary results are bad. As a rule it pays the builder to cover as much as possible of the space at his disposal with brick and mortar. The greater the amount of accommodation, the larger the rent. Therefore the "back ends" of these tenements are built out to almost the end of the "garden," which is thereby reduced to a narrow strip, and if a similar terrace is built at the back, the "back ends" of it will very nearly meet the other. "In consequence, the back ends of double tenements may, and sometimes actually do, become 'back-to-back' buildings, with all the evils attendant on a deficiency of external air-circulation and of direct illumina-

tion by sunlight." Yet, as the local bye-laws make no provision for such contingencies, the Medical Officer of Health is not free to condemn them. Still, there is a chance of bringing the dangers of this kind of building home to the ratepayers. For Dr. Crookshank points out that the complete impossibility of isolating cases of infectious disease in these tenements involves additional accommodation in the local isolation hospitals. "Formerly the provision, by means of isolation hospitals, of one bed per thousand of the population was thought adequate; in a district dotted with double tenements at least two beds per thousand in habitants are required."

This method of building has also a bearing on the question of overcrowding. Dr. Crookshank says that only one case of legal overcrowding was discovered during 1902, despite the closest supervision. Yet he does not deny that there is foundation for the accusation which has been made of overcrowding in his district. "But," he says, "it is not the overcrowding moralists object to—the packing of many persons in one room—it is the more decent but equally unhealthy overcrowding that exists when, to save a little rent, the tiny compartments of tenements and 'maisonettes' euphemistically called 'dressing-rooms' are made the sleeping-rooms of adults." And he adds: "It surely should not be possible for builders to plan, and tenants to occupy as bedrooms, compartments so small as is frequently the case." But if this is to be prevented Dr. Crookshank must educate the local authorities of Barnes to examine more critically the buildings which are being put up before passing them as satisfactory.

For the matter has an important bearing on the question of houses which are to be regarded as unfit for habitation. The Housing of the Working Classes Act does not define what constitutes "fitness" or "unfitness" for habitation, and authorities will not condemn a house which is structurally sound, even though it is deficient as regards light ventilation, cubic space, and surrounding outside space. "For such houses as these demolition is the only remedy. Yet their demolition cannot be brought about unless it is first accepted that the defects just enumerated justify a representation of 'unfitness for human habitation' even in the absence of structural decay."

Even to a humbler class is the "maisonette" heresy extending after a fashion, and the municipality is encouraging it. It is proposed to build working-class dwellings, to be let at a rent of 7s. to 8s. a week, and to contain two living-rooms and two or three bedrooms. It is almost certain that all the rooms in these dwellings will be small. The rental is prohibitive to the humblest class—those whose total income does not exceed 20s. to 25s. a week, and as these are usually small families, or at least families where the children are too young to work, they do not often require so many apartments. What is wanted is one good living-room, with a scullery attached, and two bedrooms, and a rent not exceeding five shillings a week. In households where the children are older, more accommodation will be required, but in most cases the children will have become wage-earners, and a larger rent can be paid. But for them also one living-room is sufficient, and as a matter of health one well-ventilated room is of more value than the same space cut up into two small and stuffy ones. The parlour is a concession to gentility, at the expense of comfort and often of health. It is distinctly a pity that any of the space—limited enough always—which is to be occupied by a family of this class should be wasted either in unused apartments or in a "hall" which is usually dark and unventilated. In short, these people cannot afford to pay for the luxury of empty rooms, and if they are to get them at a possible rent, it must be at a sanitary sacrifice. If there is a demand for

dwellings with such extra and useless accommodation, no doubt private builders will supply it, but municipal dwellings should in common sense as well as in stability of structure be a model to others.

VISITS TO PRIVATE ASYLUMS.

By OUR RAMBLING REPORTER.

BROOK VILLA, GREEN LANE, LIVERPOOL.

THIS private asylum is situated near the centre of a very large population, being not more than three miles from the Lime Street Station; and it can be easily reached in about twenty minutes by electric tram-car from St. George's Hall, as the line passes within a hundred yards or so of the villa. The gates stand open, and a nice avenue winds up to the main entrance. The grounds attached to the asylum and belonging to it are 20 acres in extent, and are tastefully laid out and planted. Although so near a large city and so conveniently placed, the building is sufficiently secluded to prevent its being overlooked too much.

The house is licensed to accommodate 52 patients, and both sexes are admitted. At present the asylum is almost full. Some of the patients are on parole and are allowed to wander about unattended. There are a great many one-bedded rooms in the house; in fact, fully two-thirds of the patients have their own bedrooms, and this is an arrangement which is nearly always liked by patients themselves, and is approved of by the relatives. The asylum does not contain one large dormitory, but there are several which contain two or three beds, and, when occasion requires the presence of an attendant or nurse during the night, these rooms can be called into use. As there are no large dormitories, neither are there any large sitting-rooms, and the small rooms have, in most instances, a very home-like appearance. The dining-room is, however, a large and handsome apartment, and here the ladies and gentlemen have their meals together, the table being presided over by one of the medical officers. There is a good billiard-room. The whole building is very comfortable throughout. The rooms are warmed by open fireplaces, assisted when low temperature requires, by hot-water radiators.

Of late years the recoveries seem to have reached nearly 50 per cent. of the admissions—a very creditable percentage when it is remembered that nearly all classes of the insane have been admitted. The rates of payment range from £2 to £3 a week, and some have been received at even less than £2. The proprietors are Drs. Duffus and Cooke, and at least one of them is always in residence.

This may be named as another of our private asylums which should have power granted to it to considerably, or even greatly, to increase its numbers. Liverpool has nearly 600,000 inhabitants, and there is no other licensed house in the neighbourhood. Brook Villa should, therefore, be allowed to double, or perhaps treble, the number named in its license at present.

HITHERTO no one, perhaps, has thought of Argentina in connection with Antarctic enterprise. Its comparatively close propinquity to the South Pole has induced the Argentine Government to endeavour to relieve the Nordenskjöld party. The equipment provided is very complete, and, so far as clothing, bedding, and boots are concerned, has been entrusted to the Jaeger Company, who have already fitted out so many similar expeditions. Commander Irizar, Naval Attaché to the Argentine Legation in London, has started for Buenos Ayres to take over the command of the expedition.