

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE TUBERCULOUS.

THE NORTHWOOD COUNTRY BRANCH OF THE MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL.

THE Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest was established in 1860 under the title of the North London Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest. The growth of the hospital has been exceptionally rapid. It has developed from a



SOUTH FRONT OF THE NORTHWOOD HOSPITAL.

small local charity to one of national importance, drawing cases and receiving support from all parts of the Empire. It now consists of: (1) A central out-patients' department, with library, lecture-hall, board room, and the secretary's offices, in Fitzroy Square; (2) a thoroughly modern and well-equipped hospital with 120 beds at Hampstead, situated 400 feet above the sea-level, and in a district long distinguished for its health-giving properties, and in close proximity to London; and (3) a country branch hospital at Northwood. It is with this latter, the latest addition to our complete hospital scheme, that this present brief description is concerned.

In 1901 the committee received, and gratefully accepted, a munificent offer from a gentleman to build an open-air hospital to be situated in the country within easy reach of London. An estate of 104 acres

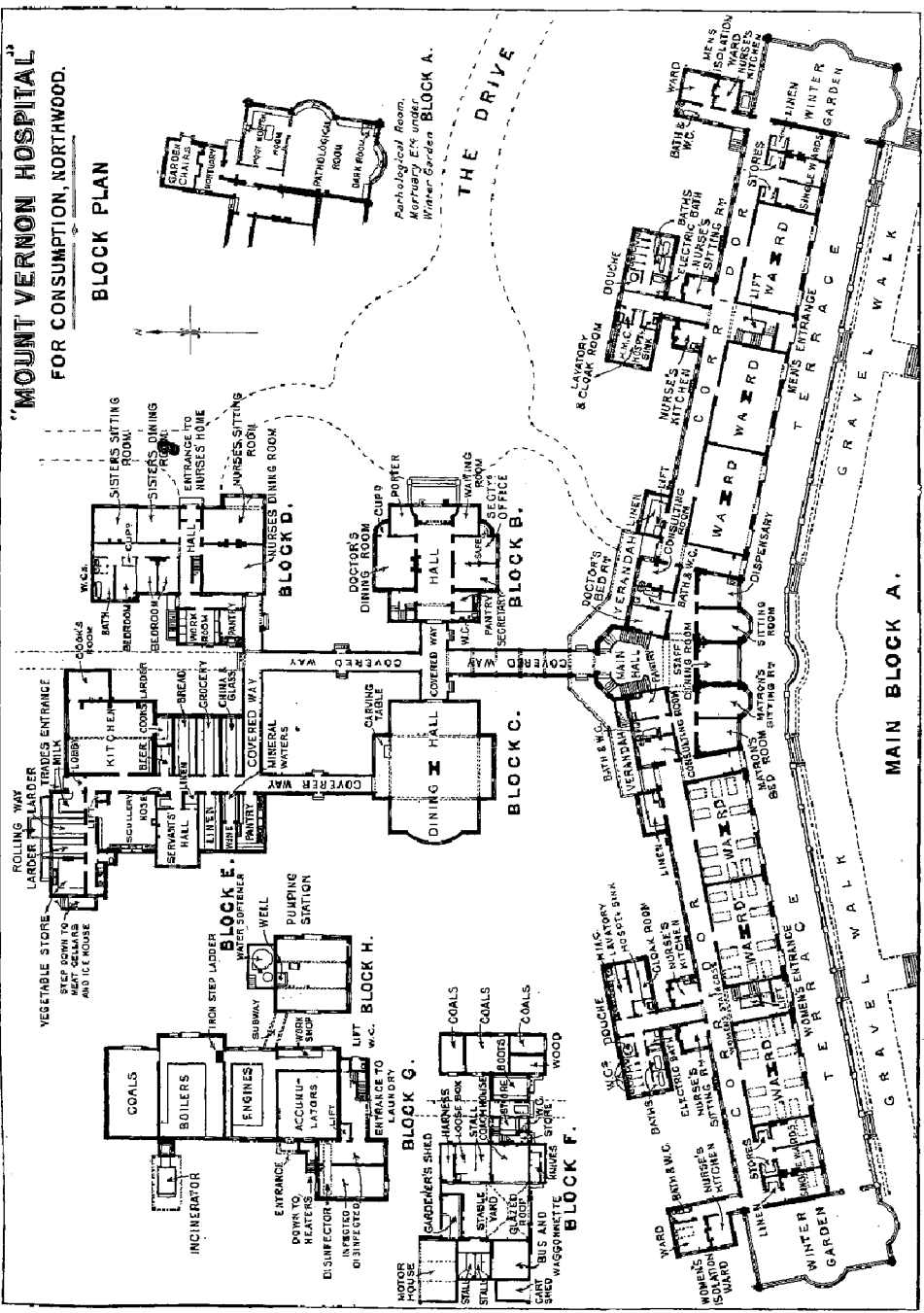
was purchased near Batchworth Heath, Northwood, in Middlesex, situated at an altitude of 375 feet, and here our country branch was built, from the designs of Mr. Frederick Wheeler, F.R.I.B.A. The foundation-stone of the hospital was laid by Princess Christian on May 13, 1902, and patients were admitted on September 19, 1904. The new institution affords far-reaching views, and the grounds are undulating, well wooded, and admirably suited for the patients.

The Northwood Hospital, with its necessary adjuncts, consists of seven blocks. Its form and general arrangement will be evident from the accompanying plan. The buildings consist of a central administrative block and two wings, all facing south, the latter being placed at such an angle that the wards used by women patients have a south-east aspect, while those for men look south-south-west. The central block is composed of three stories: the ground-floor contains a large hall with double staircases, quarters for the resident medical officer and matron, dispensary, and consulting-rooms; on the first-floor is the board room and library; and on the upper story there is accommodation, including baths, for thirteen servants. The central tower contains large water tanks, and is surmounted by a clock and bell. The wards have been constructed so as to afford free access of light and pure air. There are ten wards, each accommodating ten patients. The wards on the ground-floor open directly on to a wide terrace by means of large double French casement windows. Over every window is a lattice roller-blind, which allows of protection from heat, wind, and rain, ensures privacy, and yet permits of a plentiful supply of fresh air. In the centre of each large ward is a stove, which, however, is only used in special need. The fittings of every ward are in accordance with the latest hygienic requirements. The cubic air-space per bed is not less than 1,400 feet. The wards open on to a wide and tiled corridor, which runs the whole length of each wing on its north aspect, and abundant air can be admitted through a series of large windows. On the north side of each ward, and over every ward door, there are pivoted windows, the upper borders of which are immediately below the ceiling, and thereby, even when south-west gales necessitate the closing of the front French casement windows, the entry of air from the north allows of the bedfast patients enjoying the benefits of a practical open-air existence. In addition to the large wards, there are twelve others designed for single-bed cases, and each is provided with an open fire-place. There are two isolation blocks, each with accommodation for patient and nurse, and supplied with means for simple cooking, and lavatory and sanitary necessities. On the north side of each corridor are the sanitary blocks. Each block contains lavatories, water-closets, cloak and boot rooms, and baths of every description. At the extremity of each wing is a large winter garden, which serves as protection for patients requiring rest, and for exercise when tempestuous weather makes outdoor life impossible. On the first-floor are recreation and reading rooms, and these and the wards on this floor open on to a wide balcony, where bed cases can be readily placed. There are a dental and X-ray rooms and electric baths.

On the north side of the hospital proper is the residence of the honorary physician-in-charge, the ground-floor of which contains the main entrance-hall, and secretarial and other offices. Behind this building, and facing west, is the dining-hall, capable of accommodating

"MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL" FOR CONSUMPTION, NORTHWOOD.

BLOCK PLAN



To face p. 162.

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250 people. The patients take their meals seated at small tables, arranged so as to be convenient for the grouping of cases and handy for serving. The nurses' home and kitchens are situated still further to the north. These blocks are connected with the hospital by a corridor 10 feet in width. The kitchens communicate with the dining-room by a separate corridor, the accommodation being above rather than below what is considered necessary for the requirements of the hospital when working at its full strength. In the kitchens everything is of the most modern type, and much of the cooking is done by steam. Sterilizers and refrigerating chambers have also been provided.

The nurses' home provides accommodation for twenty nurses. It contains a sitting-room, dining-hall, sisters' rooms, and bedrooms, with pantry, linen-room, bath, and lavatory. Each nurse has her own bedroom. All the blocks are lighted by electricity generated in the electric-light station, which lies to the north of the kitchen block. The central block, nurses' home, and chapel are all heated by Langfield's special installation.

There is a pure and plentiful supply of water on the site, which is obtained from the chalk beds. There is also a well-equipped steam laundry, where the washing for both hospitals is carried on. A disinfecting-room contains the latest modification of the Washington-Lyon form of apparatus. All the house refuse and sputum is cremated in a special incinerator.

A large and well-equipped Pathological Laboratory is furnished with every requirement for routine and research work.

There are stables, coach-houses, and motor garage, and equipment for dealing with any outbreak of fire.

Provision has also been made for the spiritual needs of the patients, a suitable chapel having been built in the grounds of the hospital, slightly to the east of the main building. The chapel is unique in its effective simplicity and quaint beauty. All its parts allow of abundant ventilation.

Both the hospitals at Hampstead and Northwood are in telephonic communication with the Central Offices at 7, Fitzroy Square, London.

Particulars regarding the admission of patients, and full details respecting the medical features and results of the work, can be obtained by reference to the reports published annually.

The hospital is sixteen miles from London, and can be reached from Marylebone (Great Central Railway) or Baker Street (Metropolitan Railway) Stations in from twenty to forty minutes. The hospital is a little over a mile from Northwood Station.

W. J. MORTON.

THE MUSKOKA COTTAGE SANATORIUM.

THE Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium at Gravenhurst, in the province of Ontario, was established in 1896 by the National Sanitarium Association of Canada, and was the first sanatorium for tuberculous patients to be built in the Dominion. It is situated in a beautifully wooded park of 75 acres, at the foot of Lake Muskoka, 125 miles north of Toronto. It has an elevation of 800 feet. The mean annual temperature is 42·2°; mean summer maximum, 77·4°; mean winter maximum,