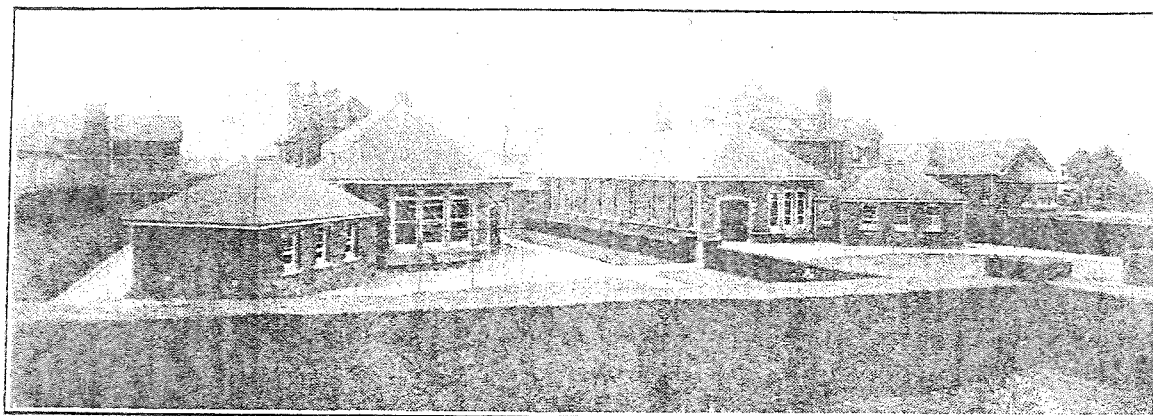


# Kettering Hospital

## NEW UNIFORMS FOR THE NURSES



*The Wards are Built Out from the Back of the Main Block.*

"YOU have just come at the right moment," Miss A. Jackson, the matron of the Kettering and District General Hospital, told me when I called on her recently. "for we have now decided to introduce a new uniform for our nurses, who are very pleased at the prospect. The change will, of course, mean a great deal of work, and the nurses will not be using the new garments until Easter. But I can show you one of the frocks we have chosen, and some photographs, which have just been taken, showing the nurses in their new uniform."

The frock, which is made of heavy white drill, is most attractive, smart and sensible. The bodice has a yoke and a turned-down collar, and buttons down the front. Under the yoke in front are groups of tucks, and at the back a box pleat. There is a useful hidden breast-pocket, and another pocket under the belt. The sleeves are of a comfortable and practical short length, and the skirt is slightly flared. White shoes and stockings are to be worn, and Miss Jackson told me that she was arranging for special white kid shoes, with one bar and a button, to be made.

### White Shoes

"But I see," I remarked, "that your nurses are already wearing white footwear."

"Yes," Miss Jackson told me, "white shoes and stockings have been worn by the nurses here for about ten years now; but the new shoes will be an improvement. The present ones are of canvas; and the new ones

will be easier to keep clean. Kid can so quickly be sponged."

"Will all the members of your nursing staff wear these frocks?"

"All except the three administrative sisters (the assistant matron, the home sister and the night sister). We have agreed that they shall continue to wear their present uniforms."

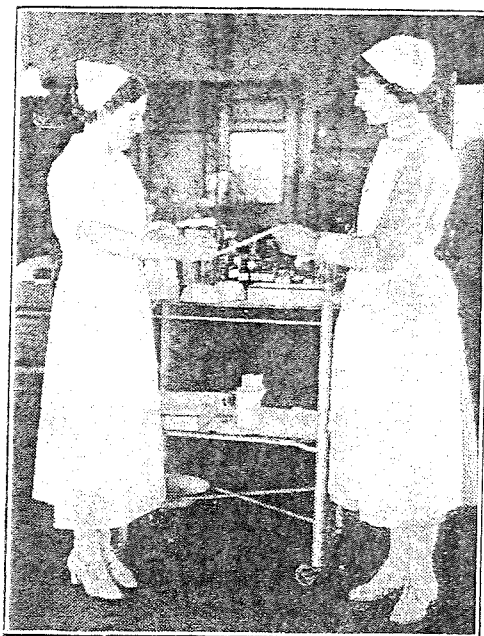
### Off-Duty Time

The nurses' off-duty times have been reorganised generously. They now have three hours off duty each day, with four hours on two out of three Sundays, a half-day a week and a whole day a month.

"What staff have you?" I asked.

"Forty-five in all. Twenty-six probationers, six staff nurses, two midwives, ten sisters, and myself. The hospital has now 102 beds, and is, of course, a complete training school for nurses. We take probationers at 18 years old."

Miss Jackson took me thoroughly round the hospital, which is up to date in all its details, and very completely equipped, yet has a pleasant and home-like atmosphere. The building has a good situation on the side of a hill, green views from nearly all its windows, and a lovely garden. This garden is the one part of the premises where age scores over modernity; for the well established orchard, the grey paved paths, and the neatly-clipped yew hedges could not be im-



*The New and the Old Styles.*

proved upon. The building itself is attractive, and the various extensions which have been added during recent years have been skilfully placed. The wards are housed in low buildings built out at the back of the main block, an arrangement which gives them all South windows to catch the sun. Some of the wards have balconies where, though it was the middle of winter and the day, though very sunny, was not particularly warm, patients were lying, enjoying the fresh air.

### A Great Asset

The theatre block was included early in our tour, as it was to be used later in the afternoon. This unit, which was built two and a half years ago, is a great asset to the hospital. The two theatres with pale green vitrolite walls, the anaesthetic room, the sterilising room, and other rooms for the use of the doctors and nurses, are arranged in a circle round a green-tiled hall; and all are very completely equipped, the robot control to the dressing steriliser being the first to be installed in the country. There is also a modern X-ray department, and a massage department. In fact, there is everything which a hospital of this size and kind should have.

We visited the maternity ward, and admired each baby in turn; the children's ward, and talked to some of the little patients; and the private wards, which have their own nursing staff, and are proving so popular that the authorities of the hospital would like to build more of them. I remarked that all the wards seemed full.

"We are always busy," Miss Jackson explained, "our men's surgical beds being particularly so. There is a very large iron and steel works near here, and we receive a number of cases from among the men working there and in other industrial undertakings in the district. Unfor-

tunately, we have recently received several men who had been badly burnt in an accident during their work."

The nurses have a very pleasant home in the grounds; and it is their patron's policy to maintain the necessarily strict discipline in the hospital, but to allow the staff every possible liberty in their off-duty time, and to give them as much freedom from the atmosphere of their work as can be arranged. The three sitting-rooms, for sisters, staff nurses and probationers, are very much alike, and all most comfortable, their big coal fires and many vases of spring flowers giving them a cheerful and home-like appearance. The large lecture-room, on the other hand, is a model of efficiency, and has a splendid stock of the latest models and other equipment. The candidates, I heard, go to Leicester to take the State examinations. There is a good hard tennis court for the use of the nurses, some of whom are very keen players. For the less energetic there is a putting lawn.

### Fine Traditions

I admired the pretty flowered curtains and counterpanes to match which I saw both in the nurses' home and in some of the rooms in the hospital; and Miss Jackson told me that these were another recent acquisition. The hospital has its own laundry, and there is also a room in the nurses' home where the staff can launder their own odds and ends.

Miss Jackson, who told me that she herself had received her training at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, seemed to have an endless supply of interesting and up-to-the-minute things to show me; but she assured me before I left her that, though she is working so hard for the progress of her hospital, she is working equally hard to avoid any over-organisation, and to keep unchanged the fine traditions of her profession.

D. P.



## The Origin of Words

THE origin of words is a useful as well as a fascinating study. Nurses are always employing difficult technical words, chiefly derived from the Latin and Greek languages. Those with a classical education readily understand their meaning and origin. But with the modern tendency to omit the dead languages from the school curriculum, there must be many nurses who cannot tell, and would be glad to know, from what roots the most common medical and nursing words are derived. We propose, therefore, to try to find space in "The Nursing Mirror," as often as possible, for a list of such words with their derivations, and readers who would like any special words explained should write to the Editor.

*A* (or *An* before a vowel) at the beginning of some words of Greek derivation means "absence of." Hence:—

ACARDIA (Gr., *kardia*—heart)=Congenital absence of heart.

ACHOLIA (Gr., *cholē*—gall or bile)=Absence of bile secretion.

AGRAPHIA (Gr., *grapho*—I write)=Inability to express thought in writing.

AMENORRHOEA (Gr., *men*—month plus *rheo*—I flow)=Absence of the monthly flow

AMNESIA (Gr., *mnesis*—memory)=Loss of memory.

APATHY (Gr., *pathos*—suffering)=Loss of feeling.

APHASIA (Gr., *aphasia*—speechlessness)=Loss of speech.

APHONIA (Gr., *phonē*—sound)=Loss of voice.

ANÆMIA (Gr., *haima*—blood)=A deficiency of blood.

ANÆSTHESIA (Gr., *ainthano*—to perceive)=Loss of sensation.

ANALGESIA (Gr., *algia*—to feel pain)=Loss of painful sensations.

ANEROID (Gr., *aneros*—liquid)=Without liquid.

ANHIDROSIS (Gr., *hidros*—sweat)=Diminution of sweat.

ANHYDROUS (Gr., *hudor*—water)=Absence of water.

ANODYNE (Gr., *odynē*—pain)=Remedy to relieve pain.

ANOREXIA (Gr., *orexis*—appetite)=Loss of appetite.

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*Ab* (Latin) at the beginning of a word usually means "away from." Hence:—

ABERRATION (L., *erro*—[wander away]=A deviation from the normal.

ABNORMAL (L., *norma*—A rule or pattern)=Contrary to natural law.

ABORTIFACIENT (L., *abortus*—An untimely birth plus *faciens*—making)=An agent that causes an abortion.

ABRASION (L., *abrasus*—scraped away)=A superficial wound.

ABSORBENT (L., *absorbens*—sucking from)=Soaking up.

(To be continued.)