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Lord Paperton and Putney

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Lord Paperton
and
Putney



MAIN ENTRANCE FROM SOUTH.

Christmas, 1928.

RHN/FU/2/3/33

Lord Paperton
and
Putney.

Christmas, 1928.



A VIEW FROM ONE OF OUR WINDOWS

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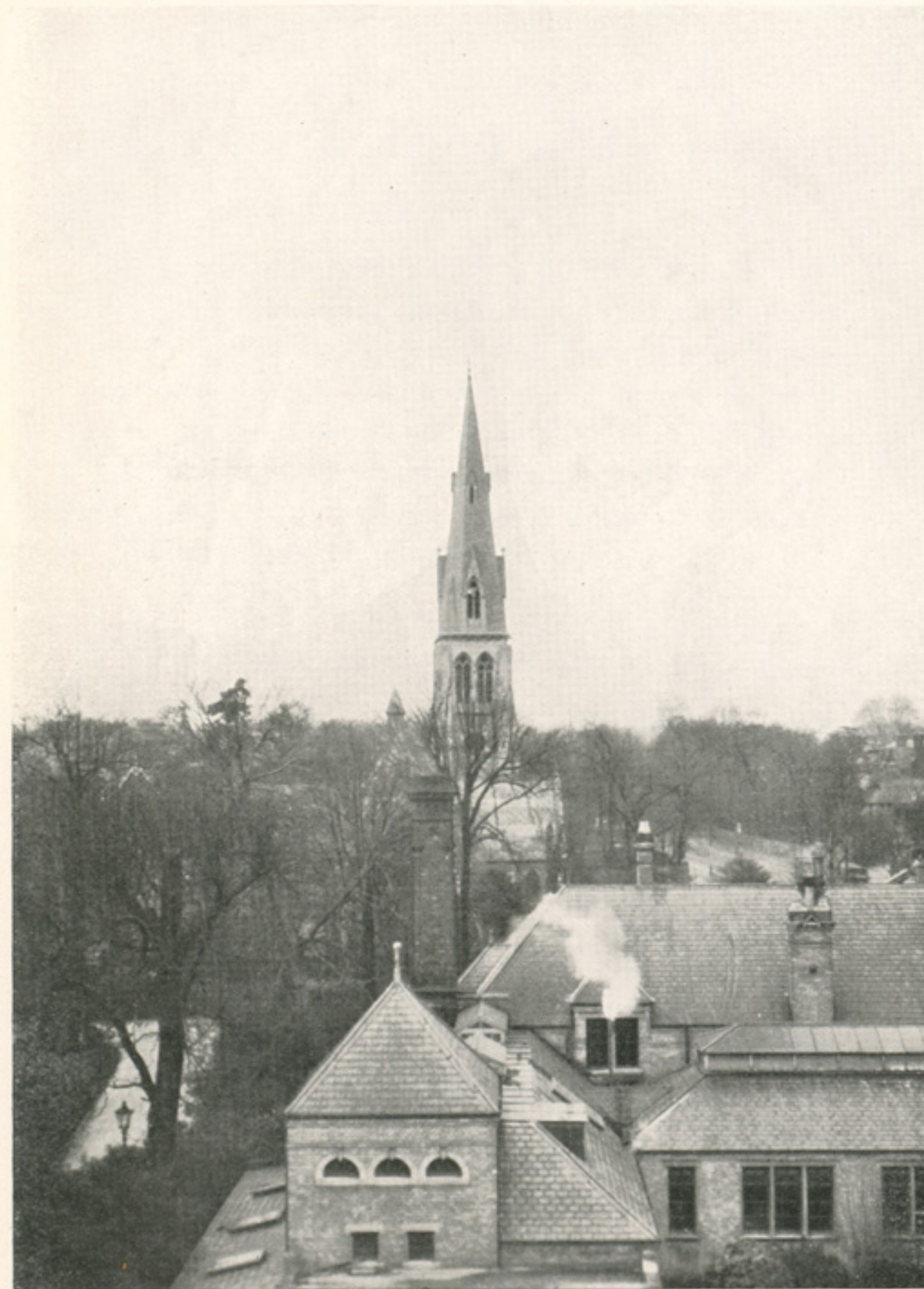
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MATRON—MISS BEGG.



VIEW FROM ROOF OF STEAM LAUNDRY

Lord Paperton and Putney.

THE Secretary of the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, handed his card to a young lady of the ultra-modern type in an imposing office located not two hundred yards away from the Bank of England. She disappeared with the card into an inner room, leaving the door ajar. Voices could be heard. Said one :

“What’s he want ?”

“He says he wants to see you.”

“Ask him to come in—and then you can come and get him away in a couple of minutes. Come in and remind me of some other appointment. I really can’t be bothered by these hospital cadgers.”

“Very good, sir.”

The bright young lady came tripping back to the outer office and informed the Secretary that her chief was exceedingly busy, but that he could be seen for a couple of minutes. She looked bright indeed, though not so bright as to give the Secretary the impression that as she had left the door ajar she was aware that the visitor had overheard “Ask him to come in,” and so forth.

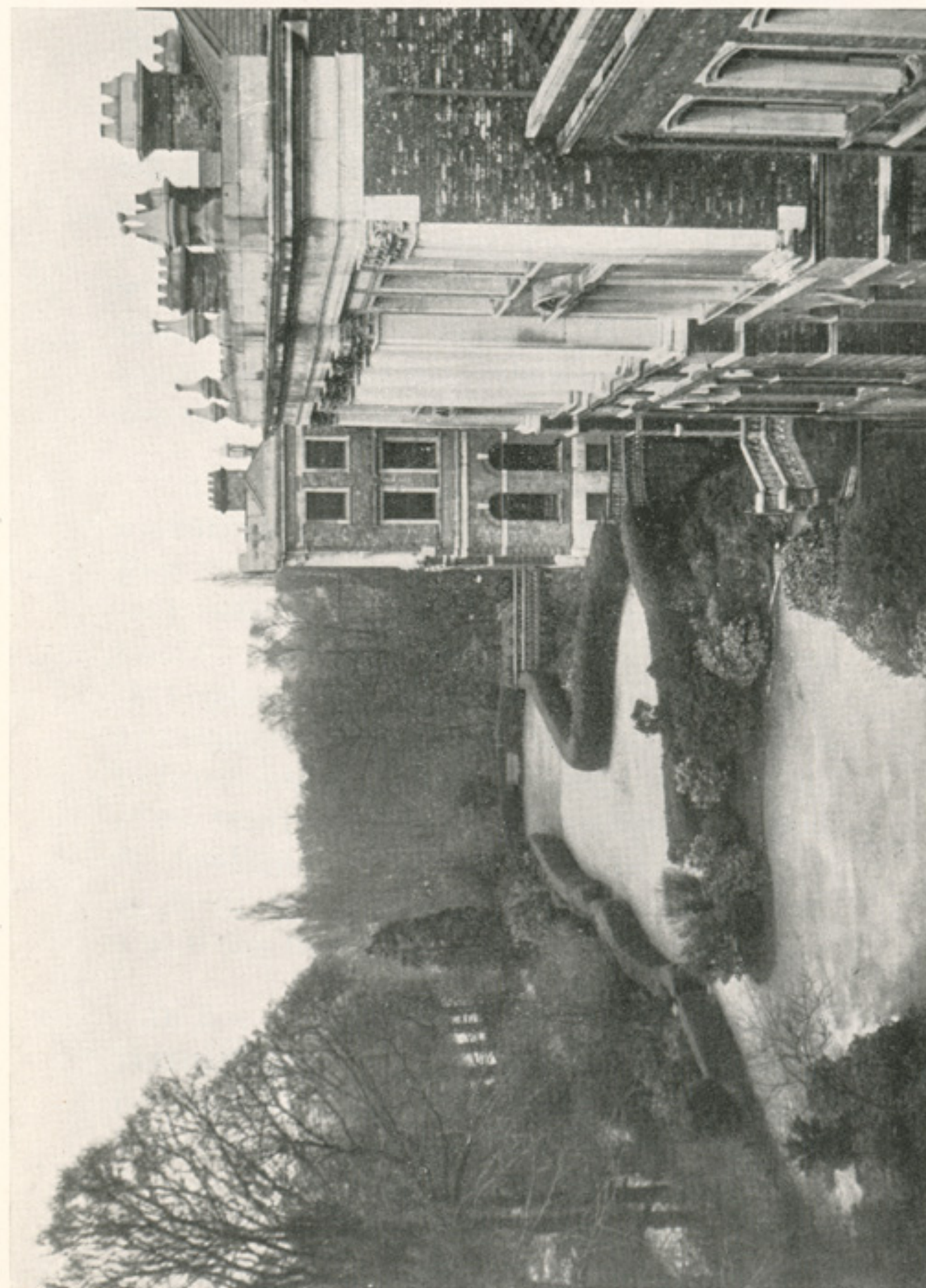
“ Well,” said the eminent chief, “ to what do I owe the pleasure of this visit ? ”

“ A nice letter and a generous donation,” replied the Secretary, producing something from his pocket.

After the perusal of the letter in question, the eminent chief turned round in his swivel-chair and said: “ This is from Lord Paperton, my elder brother, who is our senior partner. Unfortunately, he is a confirmed invalid, and I suppose he has sent you this letter and his cheque for £1,000 as a mark of his practical sympathy with the afflicted, among whose number he has been for some years. I see that he suggests that I and our other partner should go down to Putney and meet him at your Institution one afternoon.”

“ Yes,” answered the Secretary, “ that is why I have ventured to call and see you. I wanted to let you know at once how much pleased we shall be to conduct you over our premises, where I am sure there is a great deal that will interest and impress you.”

“ It is a frightful bore, you know, this action on my dear brother’s part. He is almost out of business now, and he seems to think that I have as much time on my hands as he has himself. However, he’s a real good sort, and I will try and fix up with our junior partner a day when we can run over and see round the Home.”



CLOSE UP OF NORTH WING

“ Please don't make a bother of it. Choose your day—a Sunday, if you like. I know you won't regret going down to Putney. Our Institution has for many good folk just as many attractions as have the various sights round about London. You won't be shocked or depressed by anything that you see ; on the other hand, I prophesy that you will feel a better and a humbler man after your visit than you do now. If you will give me an idea of the date when you can manage the visit, I will fix it up with Lord Paperton.”

“ All right ; I'll think it over. And in the meantime you might send me your Annual Report or any printed matter that you think will enlighten me as to the work you are doing. But don't imagine that I am doing this because you have called to see me to-day, or because I am likely to be really interested in Incurables : I am just doing it for the sake of my brother, to whom I am deeply attached. He leads a very lonely life, and if I can do anything to humour him or to cheer him up, I will do it gladly.”

In due course Lord Paperton and his two partners arrived at the portals of the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney. Lord Paperton had to be assisted from his car, and he was placed immediately in a comfortable wheeled chair and brought into the Main Entrance Hall, where he was received by the Matron.

In reply to their inquiries the Matron informed the visitors that the present Entrance Hall is part of the original building and about two hundred years old. For years Melrose Hall, as it was once known, was the property of one of the Dukes of Sutherland. There are records of many distinguished visitors staying here years and years ago, among them being the great hero, Nelson. A room in the rear of the Entrance Hall, with a ceiling which is a splendid example of the work of the brothers Adam, said to have been the old drawing-room, is now used as a Library. This Library to-day contains some thousands of books, which have been given for the use of the patients by friends and supporters. The Librarian is one of the patients, of whom the majority are great readers.

Lord Paperton, at his own request, was wheeled to the window across the Library, whence a view of spacious lawns is obtained. In suitable weather the lawns are used for tennis by the members of the nursing staff. There are some fine old trees skirting the lawns on the farther side, and in the distance can be seen the Head Gardener's cottage and the fringe of an orchard containing hundreds of fruit trees. One also sees from the Library window the back of the big North Wing, which fronts on to "West Hill."

After an examination of the Visitors' Book, which, by the way, contains the signatures of



MAIN ENTRANCE AND SOUTH VERANDAH FROM MEADOW

a number of Royal personages and members of some of the most distinguished families in the land, a move was made in the direction of the sixty-two wards.

“ Had you come a few months ago,” said the Matron, “ you would have found in this bed a dear old lady named Miss Tillee, who occupied this corner and looked out of this window for no fewer than forty-eight years. This corner was known to all our visitors as ‘ Sunshine Corner,’ by reason of the fact that Miss Tillee radiated sunshine, optimism, fellowship, faith and hope. In her young days Miss Tillee had been a dancing mistress, but when stricken down by an incurable hip-disease and other physical troubles she came to Putney and remained in a bed in this corner for nearly half-a-century. She kept a copious diary and was a fount of information on many interesting subjects. She had friends in all ranks of life, and during the year many hundreds of them called to have a chat with her.”

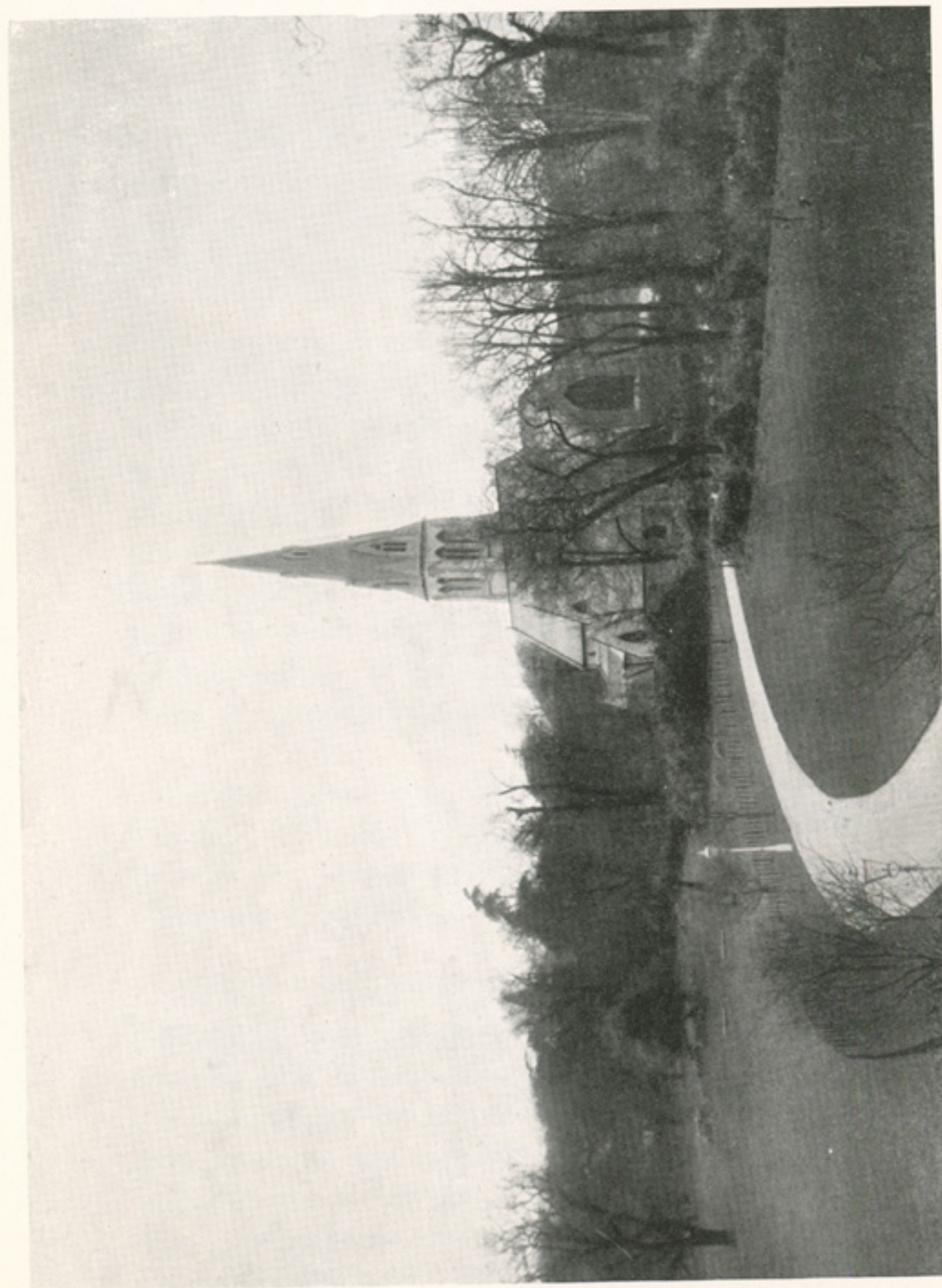
“ Are all the wards the same size ? ”

“ Oh, dear, no,” answered the Matron. “ Our largest wards contain eight beds and our smallest wards contain only two beds. One of the wards with only two beds is at present occupied by two sisters who are devoted to each other. You will observe that the beds here are surrounded by home-like objects. We rather pride ourselves upon the

fact that our wards are much more home-like than those you will find in a general hospital. We allow our patients to have their little personal belongings about them—photographs, pictures, books, cage-birds and anything within reason for which they have a liking. You see, in the strictest sense of the word, this is a Home and not a Hospital, although all our patients are treated hopefully and everything that is possible is done to lighten their sufferings. We have among our present patients about eighty who are bedridden and another eighty who pass their days in wheeled-chairs or upon wheeled couches, while the remainder are able to get about with the aid of crutches or with one or two sticks. Some of them can walk about in an apparently able-bodied manner, although were you to read a description of their ailments from a medical or surgical point of view you would marvel at their activity.

“ Now we will go up to the first and second floors, and we shall not give you any tiresome climbing, Lord Paperton. We will just have you wheeled into one of our electric lifts, from which we gain easy access to the upper corridors and wards.”

After an hour or so spent in visiting about thirty wards, the Secretary said to Lord Paperton, “ Let me know when you are getting tired of seeing the wards.”



PORTION OF FRONT CARRIAGE DRIVE

“ Oh, I am far too interested to be tired. I find every ward is different. Bedridden invalids have a strange fascination for me, for I was lying on my back for two years and it was said that I should remain in bed till I died. The prophets were all wrong, as is the case so often, and you cannot be surprised when I tell you that Incurables touch my heart and awaken my utmost sympathy.”

After a time Lord Paperton's two partners hinted that it would be unwise to over-fatigue their senior colleague, and another brief journey in the lift brought the little visiting party to the ground floor, where afternoon tea was taken in the Matron's sitting-room. There was much talk at the tea-table with reference to the Home and its beneficiaries ; of the spirit of resignation and even cheeriness that seems to reign supreme.

“ Why was the Institution located at Putney—why not farther away from London's grime and smoke ? ” asked one of Lord Paperton's partners.

“ Well,” answered the Secretary, “ when this site was chosen seventy years ago, Putney was little more than a village. It is still unspoiled so far as our patients' health and nerves are concerned. Some of our patients have not yet set eyes upon a motor bus ! We are on the top of a hill and we get as much light and air and sunshine as we

should on Epsom Downs, which we can see from our upper windows. Then you must remember that the two hundred and fifty patients here have at least two thousand friends and relatives who greatly appreciate the fact that the invalids are easily accessible. Putney was chosen because Putney was convenient. However, this is not a Putney Institution; it is a NATIONAL CHARITY, for every county in England is represented among our inmates. The Board of Management seventy years ago were wise enough to realise that Putney was a place that would suit the convenience of the many.

“The Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables was instituted at the Mansion House in the year 1854, with the Lord Mayor in the Chair. Ever since its foundation it has been a favoured Charity of the City. The late Alderman Sir Charles A. Hanson, Bt., M.P., was one of many special friends of ours. During the Great War, when he heard that our Board did not feel justified in holding its usual Festival Dinner, he organised a modest Luncheon Festival and he collected some thousands of pounds for us. Among the notable things he said in his speech was:—

“One is heart-broken to think that there can be in this country such a mass of human suffering, such a mass of irremediable human distress. On the other hand, when one thinks of the

angelic ministrations, of the helpful medical and surgical treatment, of the careful nursing, of the general manifestations of sympathy which one sees at the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney Heath, one really rejoices that, after all, this is not a decadent age, but that we are animated by Christian sympathy and by a lofty conception of individual and public obligation.’

“Then our City Offices, situated within a stone’s throw of the Mansion House, are a ‘compliment’ to the City where we have so many good and bountiful friends, as well as a ‘front trench’ for our own financial purposes. The value of the ‘front trench’ is well recognised and most pronounced in all warfare, and in the fight for the £50,000 which are necessary year by year for the maintenance of our Institution we find a City Office invaluable. City men can drop in to the City Offices and ascertain what they want to know about our work. City folk who hear from provincial friends that application is being made to this Home on behalf of some provincial invalid are able to get all the details as to our half-yearly Elections settled quickly over the counter at the Office, and so on. All the stress and worry associated with money matters are, rightly, separated from this Haven of Peace.”

Lord Paperton would have talked on for hours, but his two partners, with character-

istic City eagerness, glanced at the clock and gave other masculine signs indicative of their desire for release. But Lord Paperton soon checked his partners' restlessness, and, turning with a smile to the Matron, remarked: "I suppose you get countless testimonials about the splendid work you are doing down here at Putney?"

"Oh, yes," replied the Matron, "we have albums full of appreciative messages. Here is one from Lord Curzon of Kedleston, who wrote:

"I take it that your Incurables are those upon whom sentence of death has been passed: and yet they have committed no offence to earn that sentence; no judicial tribunal has sat in judgment upon them. Fate only has stricken them down; it is the physician or the surgeon who has signed their death-warrant. Even when criminals are condemned to death an effort is made to lend some solace to the days that separate them from their doom. What we do for the guilty shall we not much more attempt for the innocent? The days between the sentence and the execution may be few or many. Often they will be days of pain and suffering, always of helpless waiting, sometimes of hopeless regrets. Shall we not do all that lies in our power to lighten the trial and to brighten the gloom?"



THE RESTELL WING FROM NORTH - EAST

We cannot remit the sentence, but we can cheer the suspense.'

“The famous ex-Viceroy of India also sent us his photograph.

“Here is a short note from George Meredith, the great novelist, whose words for so many thousands are winged with light and whose memory is venerated by all lovers of literature. He wrote :

“ ‘The Appeal for subscriptions to the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney Heath, should strike to the heart of all who have the common humane feeling for their fellows. For here is the case of utter helplessness under an impending inevitable doom. These poor sufferers have passed hope and still they draw our breath of life. Their position has only to be brought home to the general mind for subscriptions to flow, if we would be worthy of our good repute for charity.’

“The late Mr. Thomas Hardy, to whom the reading and thinking world is deeply indebted for many beautiful works, wrote :—

“ ‘ ‘What can't be cured must be endured.’ The proverb has become a platitude and this blinds us to its cogency. More is said there than appears on the surface. Degrees of suffering are not to be measured quantitatively, but relatively: they are the difference between the

malignant forces that attack and the susceptibility to such forces; and to steady and compose the latter is to render the former less terrible. To mind less is really to bear less, and comfort helps men to mind less. It is a fact to be remembered in respect of the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney.' ”

After tea a visit was paid to the large Assembly Room, where hang the portraits of the King and Queen—our gracious patrons—and large framed photographs of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, in addition to an oil-painting of Queen Victoria. The foundation stone of the Assembly Room was laid in 1874 by King Edward VII when he was Prince of Wales. The Assembly Room is used as a sitting-room by about seventy of the lady patients. It is also used for Divine Service and for concerts and other social functions.

“Have you no chapel?” asked Lord Paperton.

“No,” replied the Matron. “Our Board of Management have had the matter under consideration, but there is a great difficulty in the way. You see, if we had a Chapel we reckon that it would take our attendants at least an hour to wheel our crippled congregation into it and another hour would be



ONE OF THE BOUNDARY FENCES

spent in wheeling them out of it. This large Assembly Room, where, you will observe, there is a pulpit at one end, is quite a convenient place for worship. There is an organ here and many of the patients are already assembled whenever a Service takes place. The others who wish it can be brought in until the room is full. The ordinary pews or chairs of a Chapel would not 'fit our patients.'

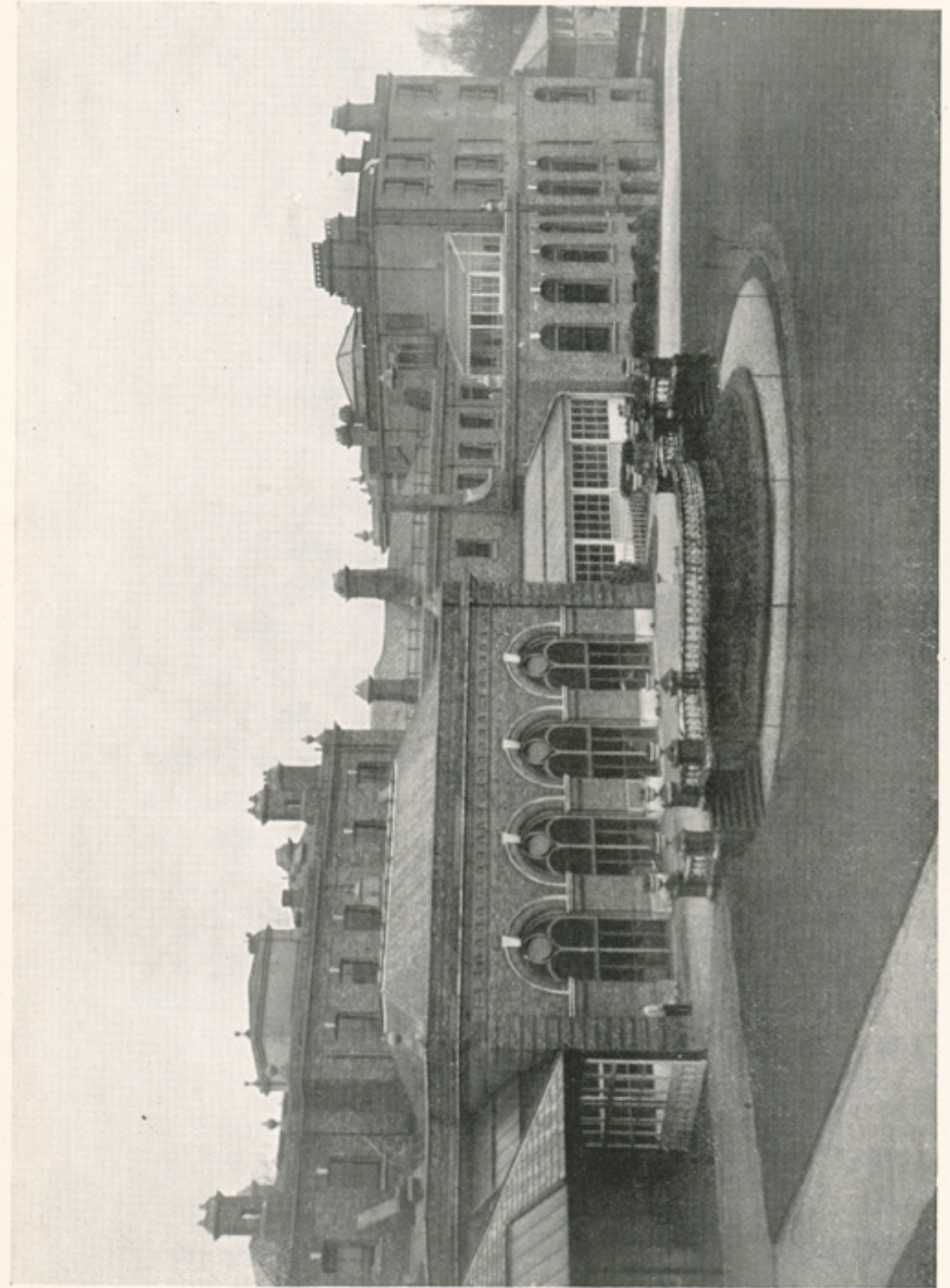
"Now we will go along to the De Lancey Lowe Room, another handsome apartment which is not quite so big as the Assembly Room. This is also used as a sitting-room by about sixty of the lady patients. It is not so lofty as the Assembly Room, though the views from the windows are, perhaps, even more pleasing than those seen from the larger room.

"Now we come to the men's quarters. Here is a large, airy room, containing a grand piano and numerous couches, where smoking is not allowed. We have, also, a 'quiet' room, for reading or study.

"Now we reach the workshop, where some of the male patients are encouraged to follow their own little hobbies. Wood-carving, basket-making, fretwork and so on are favourite pursuits. The articles made by the patients are sold by them to visitors, though the great event of the year so far as

selling is concerned is the Annual Sale of Work, which is usually held for two days in June. Last year the Sale of Work was opened on June 29th by the Lady Mayoress, Lady Blades, and on the following day the opening ceremony was performed by Lady Clerke, the wife of the Chairman of the Board of Management. Six or seven hundred pounds are usually realised at the Sale of Work, and this sum is devoted wholly to the patients themselves. Even Incurables need some pocket-money. Some of the lady patients are exceedingly clever with their needle. They do crochet work, or knit, while some can show really fine examples of embroidery, and that in spite of badly crippled hands ; their patience and ingenuity are wonderful. On the occasion of Princess Mary's marriage Her Royal Highness was graciously pleased to accept a table-cloth which had been embroidered and made by some of our lady patients.

“ Here is the Billiard Room, where the male patients pass some of their hours in recreation, though only a few of the more able-bodied can take active part in the games. This handsome billiard table was presented to our Institution by the Duchess of Northumberland. We have had some well-known professional players who have been good enough to come down here and give exhibition games for the benefit of our patients, just as we have had a group



EXTERIOR OF THE ASSEMBLY ROOM

of famous tennis players from Wimbledon who have given up a few hours of their valuable time to come here and play on our lawn for the edification of those whose limbs are far too stiff to play such a game.

“We will go to our Kitchens now,” continued the Matron. “Everything is right up-to-date, as you will notice. We have special apparatus for making beef-tea, for steaming potatoes and for cooking the many special dishes that have to be prepared for our more delicate inmates.”

A visit was then paid to the House Committee Room, where it was explained that the Committee meets at noon every Wednesday all the year round and where all the chief officers make their reports and all the books kept in all the departments are examined—and criticised! The Board meetings and the Finance Committee meetings are held at the City Offices.

One of Lord Paperton's partners, on looking out of one of the windows of the House Committee Room, noticed some escaping steam in the distance among the trees. “Ah,” explained the Matron, “that's our Laundry. It is rather hidden away. You must go over and see that.” As the City men admitted an interest in machinery, a visit was paid to the Laundry, where many thousands of articles are washed weekly.

“Have you time to go over and see our Nurses’ Home, on West Hill,” said the Secretary. “Fifty members of the nursing staff sleep over there.”

“Good heavens, no!” replied one of Lord Paperton’s partners. “We don’t want to see the Nurses’ Home, which, I suppose, consists of bedrooms and sitting-rooms and so on, like every other nurses’ home.”

“Well, then,” commented the Secretary, “come down to our Farm and see the pigs and poultry.” But when the matter was put to the vote a visit to the Farm was also turned down.

“Our meadow over there,” explained the Matron, “is lent to local religious centres for Sunday School treats from time to time. Our patients like to look from the windows and see the youngsters romping about. Our flower beds and herbaceous borders, also, are a source of endless interest to the patients. Then indoors, as you may have observed, we have a complete Wireless Installation. Every bed has its set of headphones and downstairs in some of the rooms we have loudspeakers for use when the majority desire it. You could really spend a week here (Lord Paperton’s partners almost shuddered) without being made fully conversant with all the ins and outs and amenities of this wonderful little colony.”



VIEW FROM TERRACE SHEWING ORIGINAL BUILDING

“ Well,” said Lord Paperton’s brother, “ I must admit this is a far more attractive place than I had anticipated. I won’t promise to become a regular visitor, but my partner here and I will solemnly undertake to become annual subscribers. You can put us down for ten guineas a year each. We have both been most agreeably surprised.”

Lord Paperton smiled at this announcement and remarked, “ I’ll bet that before you are as old as I am you two fellows will have doubled your subscriptions to this noble Charity. I make no secret of the fact that I am going to remember it substantially in my will. Here under this roof we have two hundred and fifty poor, brave things who are making the best of a bad job, and, so far as I can see and judge, they could not be in any better quarters in the world.”

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath to THE ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES, PUTNEY, the sum of £ , free of duty, to be paid, together with the duty thereon, out of such part of my estate as can be lawfully bequeathed for charitable purposes, and to be applicable to the general purposes of such Institution, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of such Institution shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

N.B.—By virtue of the "Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1891," land may now be devised to a Charity, but it is liable to be sold within one year from the death of the Testator.

In Memoriam.

WHY NOT COMMEMORATE THE PRECIOUS MEMORY OF THOSE DEAR TO YOU BY GIVING MONEY FOR NAMING IN PERPETUITY A BED, OR A WARD, AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES, PUTNEY, A MEANS WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY BE A LASTING TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTED, BUT ALSO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL MERIT OF AFFORDING RELIEF TO THOSE WHO ARE WORTHY OBJECTS FOR SUCH PRACTICAL SYMPATHY. A BED WILL BE NAMED IN PERPETUITY FOR THE SUM OF £1,000. A PENSION FOR AN INCURABLE WILL BE NAMED IN PERPETUITY FOR THE SUM OF £500.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

An Annual Subscriber has One Vote at each Election for each Half Guinea, and an additional Vote for every additional Half-Guinea. A Donation entitles to Votes at the next ensuing Election, four Votes being given for each Guinea contributed. A Life Subscriber has One Vote for Life for Five Guineas, and an additional Vote for Life for every additional Five Guineas.

Subscriptions received at the Office, Bond Court House, Walbrook, E.C. 4, by the Secretary, to whom all Orders should be made payable; by the Treasurer; and by Messrs. Glyn, Mills & Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C. 3.

It may surprise some readers to learn that the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, is denied a share in the annual distribution from the King Edward's Hospital Fund and the Saturday and Sunday Collections for the Hospitals. Not one penny from these Funds ever finds its way to this Charity. The main reason for this is that the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, does not cure patients, a task which it would naturally not pretend to undertake since it only accepts cases which have already been discharged as incurable by other hospitals, or certified as incurable by two doctors. Surely the fact that this hospital is denied a share in the distribution of these Funds lends added claim upon the generosity of the public.

The Hospital is not quite a mile from East Putney Railway Station (District Railway), where cabs are obtainable. Putney Station (Southern Railway) is rather more than a mile distant. Motor omnibuses (Services Nos. 51A and 85) run from Putney Bridge Station (District Railway) to the top of Putney Hill, which is within three minutes' walk of the Hospital.

Remittance Form

To SIR HENRY LOPES, Bt., Treasurer,
ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES, PUTNEY,
BOND COURT HOUSE, WALBROOK, E.C. 4.

Date _____ 192__

From* _____

Address _____

Sir,

Enclosed you will find a _____

for £ _____

which

send you as } an Annual Subscription } in aid of the funds of the
 } a Donation }
 } a Life Subscription }

ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES, PUTNEY.

(Signed) _____

AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIBER has one Vote at each Election for each Half-Guinea.
A DONATION entitles to Votes at the next ensuing Election, Four Votes being given for each Guinea contributed.
A LIFE SUBSCRIBER has One Vote for Life for Five Guineas, and an additional Vote for Life for every additional Five Guineas.

* Please write name as it should be printed in the List of Governors and Donors.
† Kindly strike out the words not applicable.

CHEQUES TO BE CROSSED "Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & CO."

Inquiries are invited from intending Subscribers.

BANKERS' ORDER

_____ 192_____

Messrs. _____

Please pay now and annually to the A/c of the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, at Messrs. Glyn, Mills & Co., the sum of

_____ *Guineas.*

£ _____

: : _____

1900

1900

1900

1900

1900

1900

1900



