

THE NEW HOSPITAL AT MELKSHAM.

DECLARED OPEN BY
THE MARQUESS OF BATH, K.G.

(Chairman Wilts County Council)

ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27th, 1938.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE HOSPITAL.

By a "WILTSHIRE TIMES"
REPORTER.

It was my privilege a few days ago to look around the new Hospital at Melksham, erected from the generous bequest of Mrs. Ludlow-Bruges, and I came away with the impression that the residents of Melksham and district are fortunate indeed. They are now the possessors of a modern, up-to-date Hospital, comparable in equipment with the best in the land, beautifully situated, expertly planned, and with comfortable and ample accommodation for patients and staff.

The new building has been erected in the Spa Road area, and whilst near enough to the town to be easily approached, it is in beautiful rural surroundings, well back from the busy main road, far from the bustle of modern life, and with beautiful views of the Wiltshire Downs. In such a spot the air should be invigorating, but the Trustees, in their anxiety to ensure that their patients shall breathe nothing but the purest air, have provided special ventilation and apparatus to exclude dust and unwanted germs and odours.

A long concrete roadway leads to the Hospital, with a large circular lawn in the immediate front and a flag-pole in the centre, forming a roundabout for cars. The visitor is faced by the handsome main entrance doors set back in a portico with four large and handsome stone pillars, and the inscribed foundation stones on either side. That on the right is inscribed: "This stone was laid by Mrs. F. Warren, O.B.E., President of the Melksham Hospital House Committee, on the 21st April, 1937." The stone on the left, which is similarly inscribed, shows that the stone was laid by Major R. F. Fuller, President of the Melksham Hospital Committee, on the same date. The visitor is now in the main entrance hall, 18 feet by 15 feet, with seating accommodation provided. Directly in front is the handsome Board Room, 18 feet by 14 feet, where the Committee and Trustees will hold their meetings. This room is adequately furnished for its purpose, and on the walls are the portraits of members of the Ludlow-Bruges family. Under the terms of the will of Mrs. Ludlow-Bruges the Trustees have to find a place for a number of handsome oil paintings. These include a painting of Mr. Ludlow-Bruges, formerly of Seend, and husband of the donor of the Hospital, and several members of that family. The Trustees wisely

decided to hang the portraits in the Board Room, which faces on to the central court with a view of the Wiltshire Downs

The inscription on the brass tablet facing the main entrance doors is:—

THE MELKSHAM HOSPITAL.

The sum of £198,635 has been left to this Hospital in remembrance of Richard Ludlow-Bruges, of Seend, who was born, lived, and died there. 1907.

On each side of the Board Room are offices for the Secretary and Matron, each 10 feet by 12 feet, and nearby are the Medical Officers' and Staff cloak rooms with an oak staircase leading to the Matron's self-contained flat above.

The main corridor runs right and left from the entrance hall, that on the right leading to the two female private wards, the women's ward, and necessary offices. The two private wards are both self-contained with separate bathrooms, lavatories, etc., and divided from the main corridor by folding doors. The area of each is 14 feet by 12 feet, and each has a private verandah with glass roof and side screens, so that a bed patient shall enjoy the benefits of fresh air without the slightest danger from draught or wind. Then there are two single wards, 9 feet by 11 feet, with similar accommodation. There are a sister's room, linen room, store pantry, clothing store, and lavatory accommodation, and a ward kitchen with gas stove, refrigerator, larder, cupboard, sinks, etc. This is fitted with an inspection window, from where the Sister can obtain a view of the whole of the main ward.

At the end of the corridor is the main women's ward to accommodate 12 beds. In this there is no cramping of bed space, as the ward measures 27 feet by 47 feet 6 inches. Each bed is fitted with wireless, with patent headlights at the head of each bed, so fitted that one patient can have full lighting over the shoulder for reading, etc., without in any way interfering with the comfort of another patient. There is also a system of lighting called Belgian lighting, which is fitted under the beds, and this gives a diffused light around each particular bed to enable the Sister or Nurse to visit and inspect each patient in full light, again without in any way interfering with the next patient. I was given to understand this was an entirely new feature, and was being used for the first time in an hospital in this part of the country. Outside there is a verandah, 24 feet by 14 feet, approached from the ward by folding

doors. This has glass sides, and bed patients can be easily wheeled out into the open, where they are well sheltered from the winds.

Leading from the main corridor through folding doors are the children's wards, with one private and one single ward, and the main children's ward for four cots and four beds. The children's private wards are 10ft. 3ins. by 12ft., and each is fitted in a manner similar to that of the women's. The adjacent offices contain toy and linen rooms, bathrooms, sink room, and duty room, and every mother who takes her child to this home of healing will be delighted with the miniature baths and basins fitted for the use of the young patients. The main children's ward is 24ft. by 30ft., with an outside verandah 24ft. by 11ft. fitted with side screens.

This block of the hospital contains the most important features, viz.: the operating surgery, casualty theatre and out-patients department. The anaesthetic room is 11ft. 9in. by 12ft. and leads through wide double doors into the main operating theatre, 19ft. by 18ft. 9in. which is fitted with modern surgical apparatus. On the north side is the main outside window 12ft. by 15ft. in length, giving a beautiful diffused natural light. Underneath is the heating and ventilating system, contrived to swing wide open for cleaning purposes. There is also controlled ventilation, with shutters and two gauze panels between each aperture, to exclude any possibility of contamination from outside dust or germs. The surgeon is assisted by an overhead shadowless lamp, and a chromium-plated instrument cupboard with glass doors gives prompt and easy access to the necessary instruments. Outside the theatre are the sterilising and sink rooms, fitted with a battery of electric sterilisers. Then, as a wise precaution in case of any failing of light by the grid system, the Trustees have had fitted a secondary lighting system, with a battery-room outside the main theatre. This is automatically controlled, and immediately the main electric lighting fails the secondary system comes into operation all over the Hospital.

Connecting with the surgical department are the surgeons' waiting rooms, dressing rooms, with the necessary lavatory and washing accommodation, and a shower. There are also gas-heated sterilisers, with rooms for drugs and splints and electric treatments.

Out-Patients' Department.

There is on the right of the main entrance an out-patients' and casualty department connected internally with the main corridor but with a separate outside entrance, up a sloped gangway for stretcher-cases. Over this entrance is an inscription plainly denoting the uses of the department. There is an entrance lobby with male and female lavatory accommodation with a wait-

ing room for out patients, and similar facilities for casualties. The department contains consulting rooms, examination rooms, a theatre for minor operations fitted with outside blinds for the purposes of controlled lighting, and an X-ray and dark room. A well equipped recovery room is also provided so that patients can recover from the effects of an anaesthetic without any discomfort to themselves or other patients.

Reverting back to the main entrance hall, but turning left, the main corridor leads to the male section, where the accommodation is exactly the same as that in the female section. Radiating from this department the building is symmetrical with the out-patients' department opposite, but this is the culinary department, with Esse cookers, gas-heated serving table, and all modern equipment. The kitchen is 18ft. by 31ft. 6in. so that the domestic staff will have heaps of room to carry out their multifarious duties. At the extreme end is a dry store, refrigerator larder, and dairy, the whole covering an area of 30ft. by 16ft., with a tradesmen's entrance from the enclosed yard.

The Nurses' Home.

The main corridor also leads to the nurses' home, which is served by separate entrances for nurses and domestics. The nurses' home has an entrance hall, with dining room and rest or recreation room, each 21ft. 9in. by 26ft. and they are divided by folding partitions which when opened gives a spacious hall of 53ft. by 21ft. 9ins. At the end of the section there is a Sisters' sitting room and a writing room, the electric station and a large room for the storage of cycles, etc., with separate entrance. Leading from the nurses' home, but with a separate entrance from the enclosed yard, is the domestic section, with a servants' hall 18ft. by 10ft. with adjoining cloak room, cleaning room, fuel house and lavatory accommodation.

There are two pine staircases, rubber covered, leading to rooms above this section. One from the main corridor leads to the nurses' dormitories, and another to that of the domestic staff. The former includes a night Sister's and night Nurses' rooms, and four other bedrooms which are entirely separate from the day-staff rooms. In the other section there are six rooms for probationers, and seven for Sisters and nurses. The sanitary arrangements include two bathrooms, two lavatories, four basins, a housemaid's closet for dirty linen, and one for general stores.

Some of the floors are of Indian Gurjun wood, somewhat similar to teak, but rather lighter in colour; others are of polished granolithic with polished terrazzo dados. The rooms for the domestic staff are at the opposite end, with seven separate rooms and complete with the necessary lavatory and dressing accommodation. The flooring of the dormitories is of rubber.

The heating chamber, which is 40 ft. x 16ft., is underneath the sanitary block, and is served by a main chimney stack. Included is four Manda Ray boilers two for the kitchen and domestic uses and two for the hot water heating systems. There is an electrical assistant circulator, and the boilers are thermostatically controlled, which ensures there shall always be an even temperature, the heat never varying but one or two degrees from the standard set.

As one enters the main drive from Spa Road the visitor passes on the right two semi-detached villas for the male attendants and their families, and farther on is a handsome brick-built and tiled building which includes a Chapel 10ft. by 16ft. a post mortem room with pathological laboratories, 16ft. x 8ft., and a mortuary. The Chapel has a small reredos, and we understand it will be fitted with an altar, the gift of Mrs. Warren. The post mortem room is fitted with special lighting arrangements and the most modern surgical equipment.

Nearby is another large and separate building which is to be used as a garage for the ambulance and two cars, with workshop adjoining, and large loft over.

I was told the hospital buildings are composed of sand-faced bricks, supplied by Mr. A. S. Crees, of the Wyke Brickworks, Trowbridge, and the roofs are of double Bridgwater dun-coloured tiles. The corridors and certain floors are laid with a marbled rubber covering by the Avon Rubber Company, with a neat grey-green bordering so contrived as to prevent any angles or corners for the accumulation of dust. All the Hospital doors are of flush-faced teak with chromium-plated fittings, and one modern feature noticed was the ceiling radiators for warming the upper air.

I understand the Hospital provides accommodation for 42 beds, with separate wireless equipment over, and no one will deny it is a magnificent building, superbly designed and laid out. The builders are Messrs. F. Rendell & Son, Ltd., of Devizes, who are to be complimented upon the excellence of their work. The chief aims in the design has been space, air, and light, and these are provided in abundance. From a layman's point of view, the hospital will give every inducement and facility for the recovery of health. One feature which strikes the visitor immediately he enters the precincts of the hospital is its space and roominess. The Trustees have chosen an ideal site and wisely purchased sufficient land to provide ample air space all round the hospital. The hospital will never be cramped for space, or be overlooked by other buildings.

Mr. S. G. Moore, of Chippenham, has been Clerk of the Works during the entire building, and his expert supervision and advice is highly appreciated by the Trustees.

HOSPITAL WORK IN MELKSHAM.

A REVIEW OF 70 YEARS.

THE History of Hospital Work in Melksham began when on Friday, June 26, 1868, a meeting was held at Melksham Town Hall to consider the advisability of starting a Cottage Hospital. At this meeting, the Rev. E. J. Barnwell, Mr. J. H. Matravets and Mr. John Taylor as Trustees, rules were adopted, and subscriptions amounting to over £50 were promised. A private house in Lowbourn was rented as the first Hospital, and the first patient was received on November 6th, 1869. The first report, covering a period of about 16 months, recorded that thirty cases had been under treatment, the Hospital's income during this period was £145 6s. 9d., and expenditure £147 16s. 3d. The first Secretary was Mr. Tom Matravets, who held the post for over 20 years. Following is an extract from the "Handbook of Cottage Hospitals," by Horace Swete:—"Melksham Cottage Hospital, established 1868; 4 beds.—This is a Cottage Hospital on the Cranleigh Model, open to all medical men. The furniture cost £62 17s. 6d., the annual expenditure being £84 18s. 10d., of which the patients have paid £12 6s. 4d. The work of this little Hospital has evidently been most successful."

The Medical Staff at the commencement consisted of Dr. King and Dr. Perry; Matron, Miss Cox (followed in a few months by Mrs. Taylor, who occupied the position for about 17 years). Other notable events were:—

1873—Dr. Grose joined the Medical Staff.

1878—Dr. Ingram Keir joined the Medical Staff.

1880.—Medical Staff: Drs. King, Grose, Keir, and Weekes.

1885.—Dr. Rumboll joined the Staff.

First donation from the Melksham Football Club, amounting to 19s.; also collection at Amalgamated Friendly Societies' Parade, £6. 31 patients, at a cost of £4 13s. 6d. per case.

1891.—Mr. Bullock Webster was appointed Secretary, following the resignation of Mr. Matravets.

1892.—Mr. Webster removing from the town, Mr. C. W. Maggs appointed.

1894.—A movement was started to obtain subscriptions for the purchase of a site in King Street on which to build a new Hospital. This, however,

did not eventuate, through the kindness of one who for many years was a staunch supporter of Melksham Hospital.

1895.—A memorable year, in which through the generosity of the late Mr. George White, a new building was erected in Bank Street and presented to the Trustees. This was opened on April 4, 1895, by Mr. Charles Awdry, and during the subsequent year's work had 42 patients and an income of £177 13s. 6d., the Medical Staff being Drs. Keir, Rumboll, and Murray Gray. Matron: Miss Driver, who held the post until 1906.

1902.—Dr. Locket joined the Staff.

1903.—A simultaneous collection in the factories and works of the town brought in £6 11s. 2½d., and was a prelude to the introduction a few years later of the Factory Scheme.

1906.—Dr. Ivan Keir joined the Staff.

1907.—Starting of the ½d. per week Factory Scheme, which for the first period brought in £18 5s. 3d., rising gradually as the years passed by to over £200. Contributors in 1907 were:

	£	s.	d.
Avon Rubber Co., Ltd.	8	2	1½
Sawtell & Sons, Ltd.	3	12	4
Spencer & Co., Ltd.	3	16	4
Maggs, C. W.	1	10	5
Burgess & Son	11	3	½
Stratton, Sons & Mead, Ltd.	5	2	
Bigwood & Co.	7	7	

1908.—New Operating Theatre and Sanitary Block was erected.

1909.—Miss Lucy Way appointed Matron. Beds now numbered 8, and 2 private wards; 46 patients, and expenses £466 17s. 9d.

1910.—The first Carnival held this year, and resulted in £131 9s. 7d.

1912.—Dr. Bennet joined the Staff.

1913.—Two new bedrooms added.

1914.—Our Secretary (now Major Maggs) had to join up with his Regiment and went to India. Mr. Edwin J. Lee, who for some years had been assisting Mr. Maggs, now had to assume the responsibility.

1915.—Mr. Maggs resigned, after having faithfully served the Hospital for over 22 years, and Mr. Lee appointed secretary. The Matron granted leave of absence to join the French Nursing Corps. This year the first Egg Sunday was held (brought in 894),

and in later years has reached over 6,000.

1917.—The Matron returned from France.—Extract from report: "Midwifery Auxiliary: At the request of Major and Mrs. R. F. Fuller, through whose generosity a Certified Midwife has been provided for Melksham, we have undertaken to be the body responsible for the working of the undertaking, on the understanding that there is to be no financial responsibility. The accounts are kept quite separate from the Hospital funds, and we should be glad to receive special donations towards this useful branch of our work." This arrangement worked well for some years, but with the extension of its labours, it was separated from the Hospital, and henceforth, under the title of the Melksham Nursing Association, and with an enterprising Committee, and now having headquarters at the Old Bank House, is a most valuable part of town organisation.

1918.—Jubilee Year: A special fund was started to inaugurate enlargements and necessary alterations. To this fund a handsome donation of £1000 was received from Mr. J. F. Stancomb, also £650 from the District Red Cross Hospital. During this year Matron Way resigned, and Miss Bevan was appointed as Matron.

1919.—Dr. Leigh Spence and Dr. Hamilton joined the Staff, and Dr. Ingram Keir was appointed as the first Hon. Consulting Surgeon.

1921.—Opening of the New Men's Ward and completion of the Children's Ward the following year. The Hospital now had 22 beds, and received during the year 220 cases; current expenditure amounted to £1,774 0s. 6d. Staff: Drs. Rumboll, Keir, Locket, Bennett, Spence, and Hamilton; Matron, Miss Bevan.

1923.—The late Mr. Bruges, of Semington, left the Hospital £100, and this was used to purchase an up-to-date operating table.

1926.—Bath and District Hospital Scheme was started, with 1,756 members enrolling the first year, and 114 Stewards.

1928.—Memorable for the starting of our connection with the Hospital Saving Association, this necessitating a withdrawal from the Bath Scheme, the H.S.A. presenting such substantial advantages.

1929.—Our Diamond Jubilee: The enlargement of the Women's and Children's Wards, giving us a total of 30 beds.

1930.—Completion of Extensions; opened by (the late) Lord Radnor. A generous gift from the Directors of the Avon India Rubber Co. of 100 guineas, contributed largely to the purchase of a modern portable X-Ray installation.

1932.—The Secretary, Mr. Lee, was compelled to resign through ill-health, and pressure of other duties, after completing 17 years of happy work; subsequently appointed House Governor, and Mr. G. Davis appointed Secretary. The Annual Report stated:—"Appreciation: It was with the deepest regret the Committee received the resignation of Mr. E. J. Lee from the position of Hon. Secretary during the past year, this being solely due to pressure of other work. Mr. Lee held the position of Hon. Secretary for the long period of eighteen years, but his connection with the Hospital dates back to 1904. During this time he gave of his very best, and it can safely be said, without fear of offence, that Mr. Lee has done more than anyone else to make our Hospital what it is to-day. No one but those most intimately connected with the Hospital can realise the self-sacrifice Mr. Lee has made in the past, and the thanks not only of the Committee but of the Town and District is due to him for his very valuable services. It was a source of great satisfaction to the Committee when Mr. Lee agreed to undertake the position of House Governor, and we hope our Hospital will continue to have the benefit of his great knowledge and advice for many years."

1933.—Matron Bevan, after 15 years of faithful service, resigned, and Miss Dorothy Jones, from the Midland Hospital, Birmingham, succeeded.

1934.—April 20: Presentation to Miss Bevan of wireless set and cheque from friends of the Hospital. This year brought the astounding news of the legacy which led to the building of our new Hospital. The first benefit to be received from the legacy was the purchase of an ambulance. The annual report recorded:—"At the quarterly meeting of the General Committee held in July, our Hon. Treasurer announced that the Hospital would benefit to the extent of £195,980 under the will of the late Mrs. Ludlow Bruges. Such a magnificent sum should free the Trustees and the Committee from financial anxiety for many years, if not for all time. From a glance at the financial statement it will be seen that £2,849 10s. 5d. has been transferred by the Trustees from their Income account toward the general expenses."

1937.—The last complete year's report from the old Hospital. Patients, 379; expenses, £2,994 5s. 11d.; per case, £7 18s. 0d.

The seventy years' history of the Melksham Cottage Hospital has been a story of self-sacrificing effort, both by workers and givers, but three outstanding efforts should find a place in our records:—

1907.—The starting, on Monday, November 18, 1907, of the Ladies' Linen League, that has functioned

from that date until 1936, and provided all the linen, garments, and many other necessary requirements for the Hospital.

First President, The Hon. Mrs. Lopes, 1907-1909.

Second President, Mrs. Blathwayt, 1909-1915.

Third President, Mrs. Robert Fuller, 1915-1936.

First Secretary, Miss Barton Fry, 1907-1910.

Second Secretary, Mrs. Moore, 1910-1925.

Third Secretary, Mrs. Stanley Porter, 1923-1936.

1908.—The organisation of a Town and District Collection by Miss Wyld, and for two years having the valued aid of the late Miss Hayter, and then extended under the direction of Mrs. Lee and a large number of lady collectors who year by year perseveringly brought over £100 a year to the Hospital's Exchequer.

1910.—The first Carnival, and then held periodically. The General Committee, presided over by prominent gentlemen of the town, staffed by energetic secretaries and a large band of enthusiastic helpers, have brought hundreds of pounds into the Hospital's Treasury.

BEQUESTS AND BENEFACTIONS.

1877—Miss Simpson	50	0	0
1881—Miss Fowler	75	0	0
1881—Mr. Dyke	100	0	0
1884—Miss Sly	100	0	0
1886—Mr. Bigg	50	0	0
1886—Miss Fox	10	0	0
1892—Mr. Ball	90	0	0
1894—Mr. Bodman	450	0	0
1897—Mr. Meredith Brown	100	0	0
1899—Mr. Chas. Kneec	25	0	0
1911—Mr. Brownjohn	45	0	0
1912—Mr. and Mrs. Preston	100	0	0
1913—Mr. H. G. White	1000	0	0
1914—Mrs. Mary Simpson	20	0	0
1915—Miss Mew	10	0	0
1916—Mrs. Dodson	10	0	0
1919—Mrs. Parfitt	100	0	0
1922—Rev. Canon Wyld	100	0	0
1922—Mr. J. Usher	80	0	0
1922—Mr. C. M. White	5	0	0
1922—Mr. F. Richards	25	0	0
1923—Mr. W. Bruges	100	0	0
1925—Mr. F. Everett	50	0	0
1934—Mrs. C. E. Moore	100	0	0
	£3521	0	0

1932—Mrs. Ludlow Bruges.

Value at cost of Securities held in the name of Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, £160,434 15s. 11d., which, together with £38,200 nominal stock transferred direct, amounts to £198,634 15 11

THE NEW MELKSHAM HOSPITAL

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"A GREAT DAY FOR MELKSHAM"

THE NEW HOSPITAL OPENED

The opening ceremony on Wednesday afternoon was attended by one of the largest gatherings seen in Melksham for many years, and was graced with glorious sunshine, although heavy rain fell in the evening. Among those present in addition to the Marquis of Bath (who performed the official opening) were Major R. F. Fuller (President and Chairman of Trustees), and Mrs. Fuller, Mr. E. J. Lee (Chairman of the New Building Committee), and members of the Committee, Mr. G. Davis (secretary), Canon F. H. Sangster (Vicar), Sir Reginald and Lady Blake, Mr. C. I. Haden (President of the Trowbridge and District Hospital), Mr. R. Dalway (secretary, Trowbridge Hospital), Miss Wiltshire (Matron, Trowbridge Hospital), Dr. I. Keir, Dr. Leigh Spence, Dr. Mary Prideaux and Miss Scuton (Westbury), Mrs. F. Warren (President of the Melksham Hospital House Committee), Mrs. S. W. Applegate, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Smith, Rev. J. B. Pullin (Baptist Minister), Major and members of the Urban District Council, Rev. Gresham Knapp (Methodist minister), Rev. J. E. T. Phillips (Vicar of Seend), Mr. — Porter (Monkton Farleigh), Sir George Oatley (the architect), Miss Bevan (formerly

Matron at the Hospital), Mr. S. G. Moore, Chippenham (clerk of works), and Mr. F. Rendell (representing the contractors). Miss Doris Jones (the Matron) and her staff were also present.

A greetings telegram was received from the Rev. Basil Aston, formerly Vicar of Melksham, who is now at Portsmouth.

Major Fuller, welcoming Lord Bath, said he regarded it as a great honour to be allowed to take part in what was indeed a great day for Melksham and neighbourhood. They hoped the new Hospital would prove a permanent benefit to all the neighbourhood for many years to come. He felt it was his duty to refer to the wonderful generosity of Mrs. Ludlow-Bruges, for it was thanks to her they had that wonderful Hospital. The late Mrs. Ludlow-Bruges used to live at Seend, which used to be part of the Melksham parish, and for many years the ancestors of that family were important people in Wiltshire. Back in the 15th century the gentleman who re-built his (the speaker's) house at Chalfield married a Miss Ludlow and was very proud of the fact that he had for a wife the daughter of a man who had worn the liveries of three Kings. Ever

since the Ludlow family had linked up with the Bruges family, and he felt that they owed a great debt of gratitude to the late Mrs. Henrietta Ludlow-Bruges for her wonderful bequest. Major Fuller paid tribute to the splendid public work and popularity of Lord Bath, who had been chairman of the County Council for a large number of years (32) and had set a most wonderful example of public service in the neighbourhood. It was, in fact, thanks to him that so many people were so anxious to get on the County Council (laughter). The Thynne family had been known in Wiltshire since the year 1, and he believed that when the first Sir John Thynne built Longleat House he had the stone brought from the same quarry as that used for his (Major Fuller's) house. The speaker narrated other interesting episodes in the ancient history of the Thynne family, and then called upon Lord Bath formally to declare the new Hospital open.

Lord Bath and Voluntary Hospitals.

Lord Bath, after a brief and humorous reply to Major Fuller's remarks about the Thynne family, said that although Sir John Thynne had many years ago taken to task some worthy residents in our about Melksham, he hoped no ill-feeling existed on their part to-day.

"I believe it is now 70 years that you have had a hospital in Melksham," continued his lordship. "At that time you had what I hope was a sufficient number of beds—namely, four. You went on for 27 years and then a new Hospital was erected on another site through the generosity of the late Mr. George White. You in Melksham have had a number of very good friends, and among other names that occur to me are Major and Mrs.

Fuller (applause). I believe it was owing to them that you had a certified midwife. Then there is the late Mr. Stancomb, who in 1918 gave you the magnificent sum of £1000 which you were able to use for enlargement and additions. After that the late Mr. Bruges, whose family has already been referred to, gave you a donation from which you supplied yourselves with an operating table, and lastly you have received a donation from a source which is still living, and which I trust will continue to exist for very many years—from the Avon Rubber Co.—by which you obtained an X-Ray apparatus. During those 70 years you have had 24 benefactors and a sum of no less than £3,520, of which you were able to take advantage of a bequest of £108,000 which the late Mrs. Ludlow-Bruges left to you, and which resulted in the Hospital at which you are now looking, with not four but 42 beds (applause). And there is also proper accommodation which has been provided for the nursing staff. More and more attention is being given to this side of Hospital work every year, and very rightly so (hear, hear). The public generally is realising that it is necessary to give adequate accommodation and proper comfort to those who are giving their best to the patients in these hospitals.

"May I congratulate you upon the result of the scheme which has been undertaken, and may I also venture to offer my cordial congratulations to the distinguished architect, Sir George Oatley, who has been in charge of it (applause). I know he will join with me in offering congratulations to Messrs. Rendell and Sons, the builders, who are represented here this afternoon. To those who have had this matter in hand I should like to say

"You have done good work and you have done a useful one."
"In these days at intervals we hear a certain amount about State-aided Hospitals, but so far as the country districts are concerned I am convinced that it is on undertakings such as this that we should rely and maintain as they are—by private and voluntary support. I am a distinct believer myself in the system of voluntary hospitals as they now exist in this country (applause). I think I may say that we have in this county a number of distinctly successful local Hospitals, and I trust that they may long continue the good work they are doing by their own efforts, and that they may receive the support which they so fully deserve from the public which they serve. I give you every good wish for the future, and have great pleasure in formally declaring this hospital open" (applause).

The Open Doors.

Sir George Oatley then handed his Lordship the key with which he unlocked the main doors of the Hospital. This was followed by the dedicatory prayers by the Archdeacon of Wiltshire, who was accompanied by Canon F. Sangster and the Rev. P. B. Pullin, after which Lord Bath and the Archdeacon with the Hospital Trustees, medical staff, Matron and members of the Building Committee, made a tour of the building, eventually emerging from the out-patients' entrance. The clergy and ministers then joined the main party at the St. Luke's Chapel, which was dedicated by the Archdeacon.

An Unique Experience.

On the return to the front of the Hospital, Mr. E. J. Lee proposed a
Continued in Page 6.



THE GROUP TAKEN AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.—Reading from Left to Right: Mr. S. G. Moore (Clerk of the Works), Sir George Oatley (Architect), Mr. F. Rendell (of the Firm of Builders), Mr. E. J. Lee (Chairman of the Building Committee), Dr. Ivan Keir, The Marquess of Bath, K.G., Major Robert Fuller (President of the Hospital and Chairman of Trustees), Dr. Leigh Spence (in background), The Rev. J. W. Coulter (Archdeacon of Wiltshire), Canon F. H. Sangster (Vicar of Melksham), The Rev. P. B. Pullin, Sir Reginald Blake (in background), and Mr. Porter.



FOR HYGIENE, SILENCE, DURABILITY AND BEAUTY

The new Melksham Hospital

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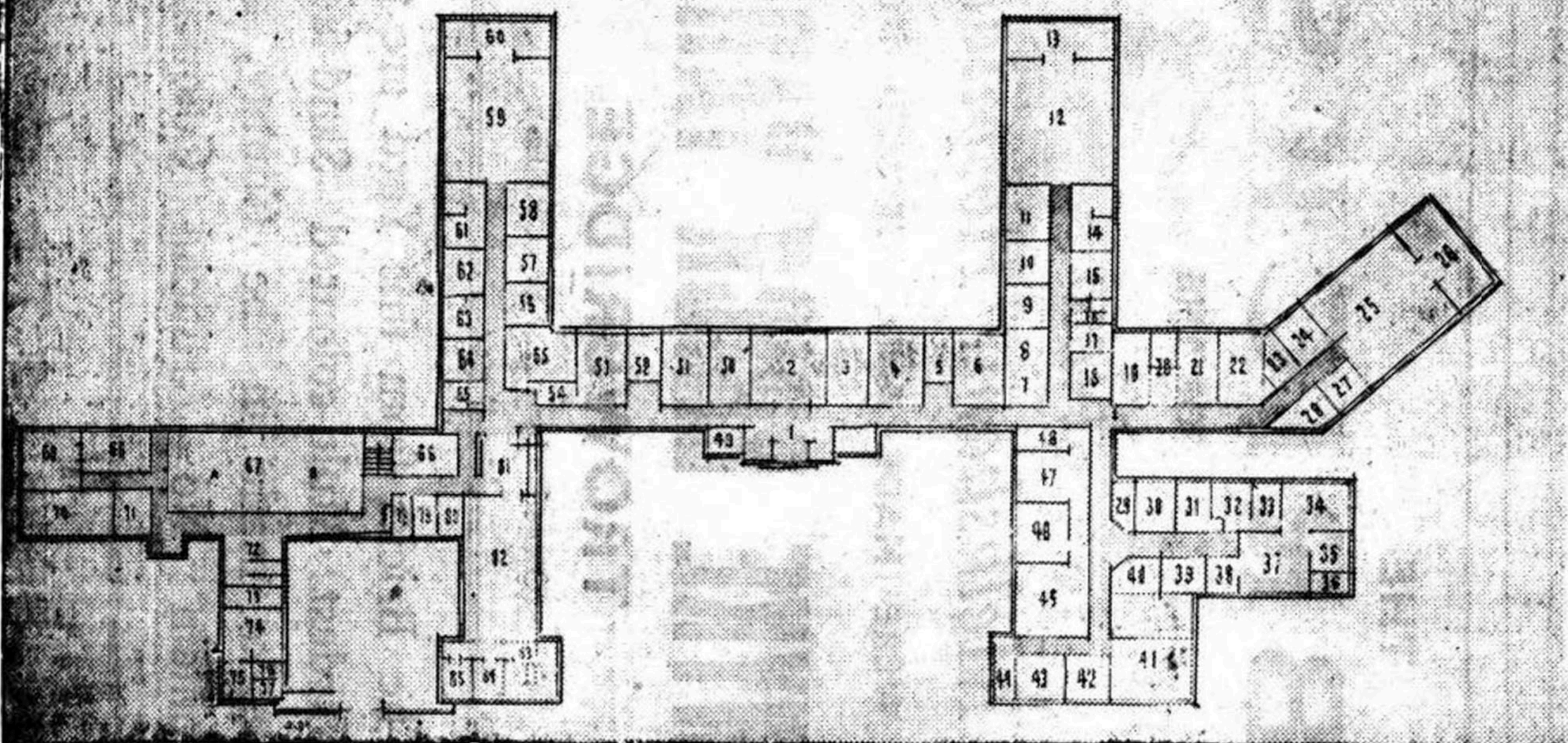
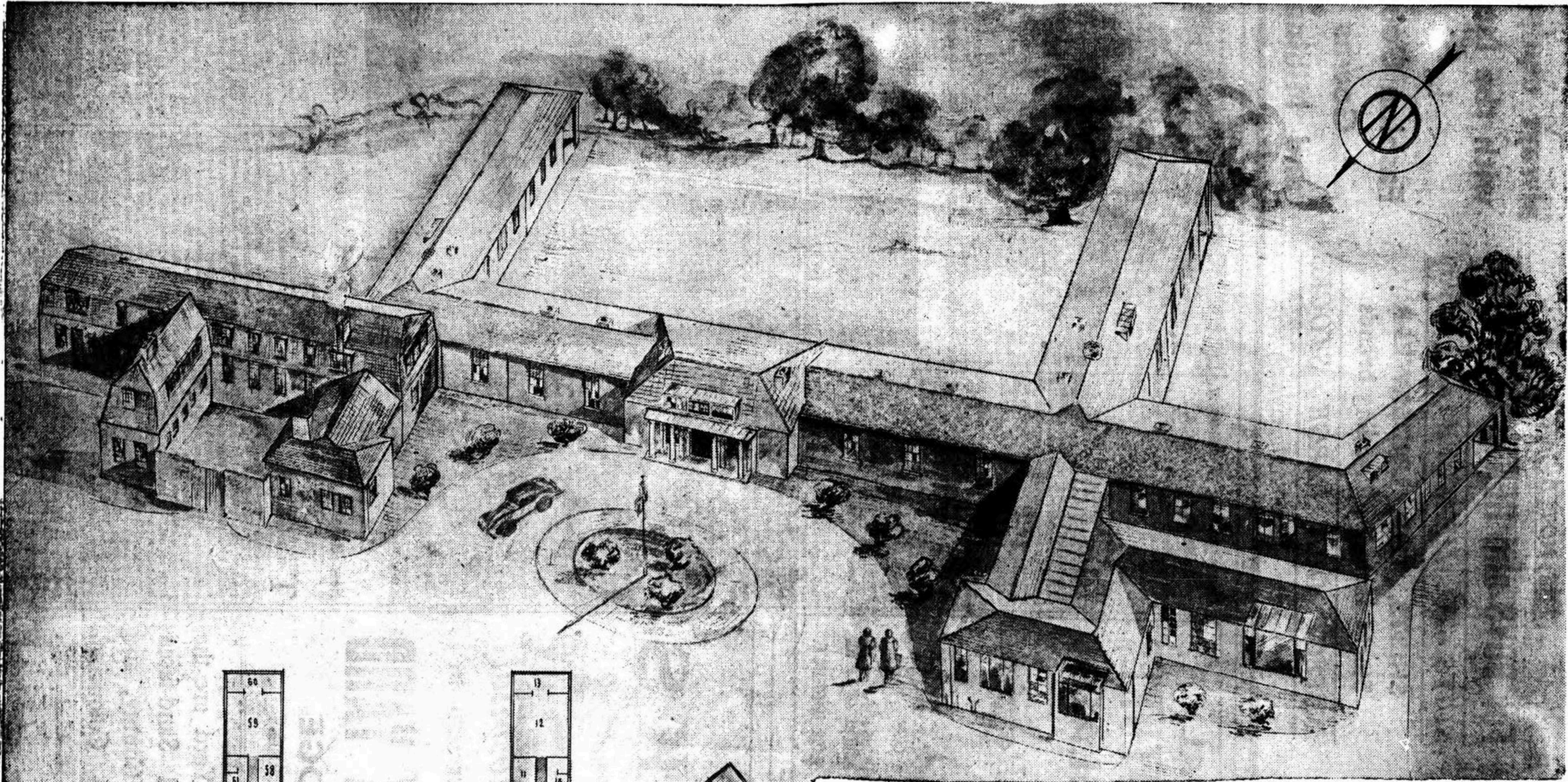
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A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE HOSPITAL

Specially Drawn for the "Wiltshire Times." With Key Plan



- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Entrance Hall. | 23. Bath. | 45. Waiting Hall. | 67A Nurses' Day Room. |
| 2. Medical Staff & Board Room. | 24. Duty Room. | 46. Consulting Room. | 67B Nurses' Dining-room. |
| 3. Matron. | 25. Children's Ward. | 47. X-Ray, etc. | 68. Sisters' Room. |
| 4. Private Single Room. | 26. Verandah. | 48. Dark Room. | 69. Writing Room. |
| 5. Lobby, Lavatories, etc. | 27. Sink Room and Lavatory. | 49. Staff Cloakroom. | 70. Cycles. |
| 6. Private Single Ward. | 28. Toys. | 50. Secretary. | 71. Spare. |
| 7. Linen. | 29. Pumps. | 51. Private Single Room. | 72. Nurses' Cloakroom. |
| 8. Sister. | 30. Dressings Sterilizer. | 52. Lobby, Sink, W.C., etc. | 73. Boiler Room. |
| 9. Single Ward. | 31. Nurse. | 53. Private Single Ward. | 74. Boiler Room. |
| 10. Single Ward. | 32. Surgeons. | 54. Store. | 75. Water Softener. |
| 11. Kitchen Ward. | 33. Wash-up. | 55. Sister. | 76. Incinerator. |
| 12. Women's Ward. | 34. Sink Room. | 56. Single Ward. | 77. Male Lavatory. |
| 13. Verandah. | 35. Sterilizer. | 57. Single Ward. | 78. Maids' Cloakroom. |
| 14. Sink Room and Lavatory. | 36. Secondary Lighting Battery. | 58. Ward Kitchen. | 79. House Fuel. |
| 15. Bath. | 37. Operating Theatre. | 59. Men's Ward. | 80. Cleaners. |
| 16. Nurseries Lavatory. | 38. Anesthetic Room. | 60. Verandah. | 81. Servery. |
| 17. Patients' Clothes. | 39. Pathological Laboratory. | 61. Sink, Lavatory, etc. | 82. Kitchen Scullery. |
| 18. Store. | 40. Drugs and Splints. | 62. Bath. | 83. Dry Store. |
| 19. Private Single Ward. | 41. Casual Operations & Dental. | 63. Nurses' Lavatory. | 84. Larder. |
| 20. Lobby and Lavatory. | 42. Registry. | 64. Patients' Clothes. | 85. Dairy. |
| 21. Single Ward. | 43. Bandaging Room. | 65. Linen. | |
| 22. Ward Kitchen. | 44. W.C.'s and Lobby. | 66. Servants' Hall. | |

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Both Bricks and Tiles are being constantly supplied to the War Office and the County Council.

The Opening Ceremony,

Continued from Page 3.

vote of thanks to Lord Bath for so kindly consenting to take part in the ceremony. It was an unique occasion, for he did not suppose any Hospital Committee in the county, and probably in the West of England, had during their lifetime such an experience as the General Committee and Trustees of the Melksham Cottage Hospital in dealing with that magnificent gift which had resulted in such a beautiful hospital. They were deeply grateful to Lord Bath for having set aside other things in order to assist them in the finale of their enterprise in Melksham (applause).

Dr. I. Keir seconded the vote. He could assure Lord Bath that no effort would be spared to make the Hospital fulfil its promise of being a blessing, and, as the years went by, they hoped an increased blessing to Melksham and district.

Lord Bath, in reply, said he should look back on those proceedings with the greatest pleasure. As Chairman of the County Council and a member of various public bodies he should always do his best to promote the interests of the county as a whole. He hoped they would all take the opportunity of going over the Hospital and that it would be the only occasion they would have to go inside.

After the opening proceedings the company were entertained to tea in a marquee nearby, catered for by Mr. and Mrs. West.

During the afternoon and evening several thousand people visited the Hospital, which will be opened for inspection this Friday and Saturday from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. and from 5.30 to 7.30 p.m.

Interesting Facts.

In the construction of the new Hospital 2,000 cubic yards of concrete were used, 500,000 bricks (all made in Trowbridge), 30,000 roof tiles, 60 tons steel work, 250 tons timber, 7,600 square feet of wood flooring, nearly six tons rubber flooring (made by the Avon India Rubber Co.), 6,750 square feet of granolithic, 284 windows, 3,200 sheets of glass, three miles of hot and cold water piping, 984 yards armoured electric cable, 3½ miles cable and wire, 1,500 yards for wireless cable. The teak came from Burma and other material from India. The Hospital equipment cost £2,500.

The altar and furnishings in the Chapel are the generous gift of Mrs. F. Warren (President of the House Committee), and the altar book the gift of Mrs. Stewart, of Potterne.

THE BUILDERS.

New Hospital Adds to Their Fame.

THE formal opening of the new Melksham Hospital marks the completion of yet another striking building by the old established firm of F. Rendell and Sons, Ltd., of Devizes. The builders of the new Hospital, by a uniformly high standard of workmanship in everything they undertake, which is now well known and appreciated over a wide area in the South of England, have enhanced their reputation by this unique building, which has been erected in the short space of sixteen months, to the design of the well known Bristol Architect, Sir George Oatley, L.L.D., R.W.A., F.R.I.B.A. Work was begun in March, 1937, and inclement weather was experienced in the opening stages of the product, which somewhat delayed the progress on the ground work involved, the sub-soil on which the Hospital stands being composed of heavy clay, and in consequence of the organisation which has prevailed throughout the progress of the works, coupled with the marked improvement in the weather, the whole of the contract and additional works have been completed well up to contract time, with the result that the services of the Hospital will be available to the citizens of Melksham without any of the vexatious

delays which sometimes result when extensive building operations, such as these, are entered upon.

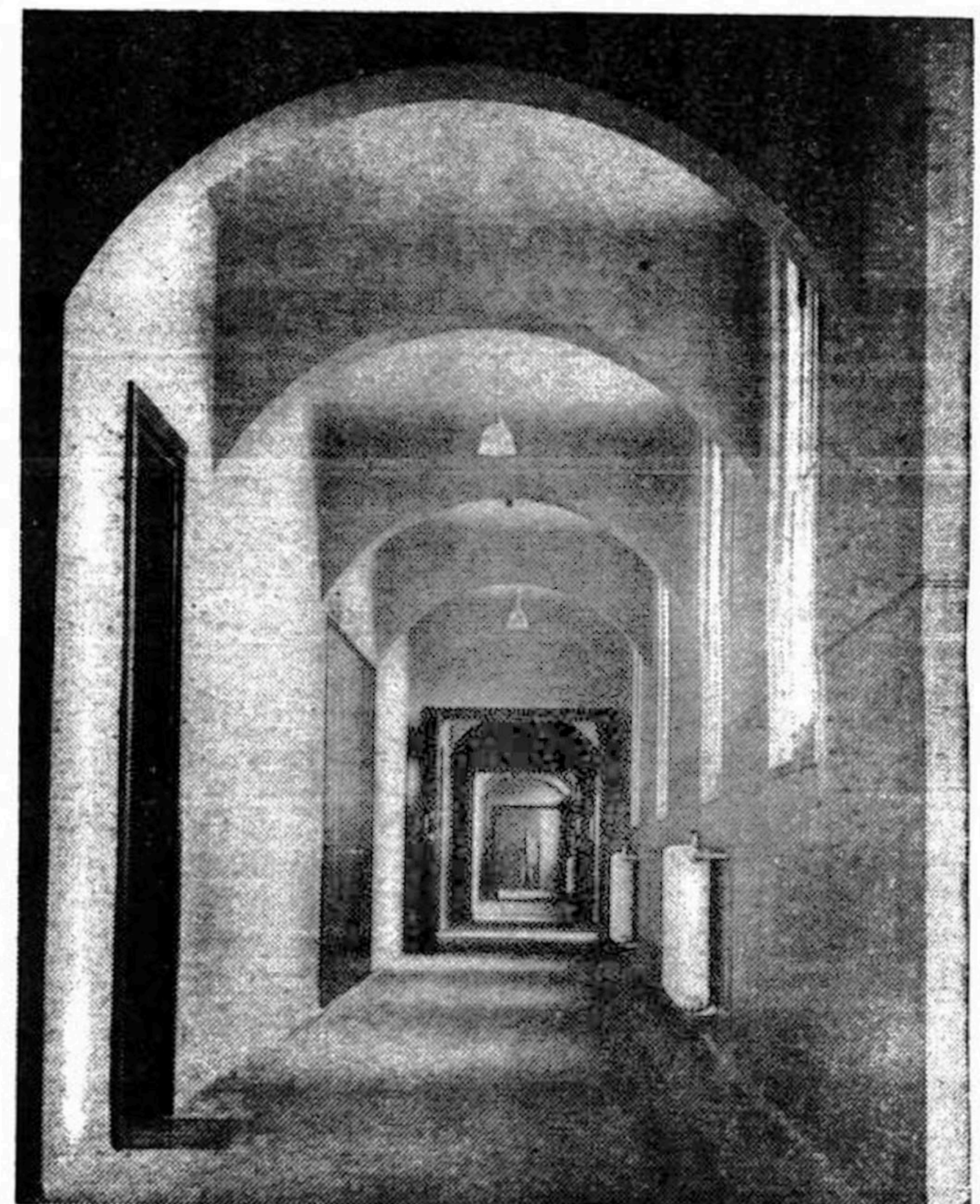
The works have been under the continuous control of the Managing Director of the firm of Builders, Mr. William Rendell, whilst the resident Foreman who has been associated with him is Mr. J. Hughes. It is interesting to note that the building of the Hospital has made a definite contribution to employment in the building trade in the Melksham district. During the progress of the works many skilled and unskilled workers have been continuously engaged on the erection of the Hospital. In addition to these practically the whole of the high class joinery in various timbers has been made at the Elm Tree Works of the builders at Devizes. The quality of the internal fittings maintains the high reputation for craftsmanship that these well

by the builders of the Hospital some years ago, to the designs of the Bank's Architect; the resulting structure dominates this busy street, and impresses by its quality.

The high quality of craftsmanship and materials, which are at once obvious in the Banking premises, have been reproduced in the Hospital, and the two buildings, though of widely differing characteristics and functions, bear enduring witness to the work of this well known and old established firm in Melksham.

It is pleasing to note that the large contract for the erection of the new Secondary School at Chippenham, which includes the adaptation and repair of Hardenhuish House, for the Wiltshire County Council, has been entrusted to this firm, and the school is now beginning to take shape on this beautiful site.

The development of Dauntsey's



A PICTURE OF THE MAIN CORRIDOR.

known Works enjoy over a wide area.

In addition to the extensive block of buildings which constitutes the Hospital buildings, additional buildings have been erected concurrently with the main buildings in the shape of a large garage to house the ambulance and other motor vehicles, which will be connected with the Hospital, accommodation also being found in the shape of stores in this building. Also an attractive pair of semi-detached cottages, with a mansard roof of a similar design to the two storied portion of the Hospital. These dwellings are erected near the main entrance on the Devizes road, in place of a Lodge which was originally projected, and will house the outdoor members of the male staff of the Hospital.

It is interesting to recall that the fine block of buildings which "Rendells" have now added to the amenities of Melksham, do not constitute their sole contribution to the architecture of the town, and by architecture we used this hackneyed word to denote, in this case, a structure of the most pleasing type in the shape of the handsome Tudor buildings which house the activities of Lloyds Bank Ltd., in the High Street. This building including the various engineering services connected therewith, was erected

School, West Lavington, into its present eminence has been assisted by the very considerable amount of building which this firm has carried out for the Governors, including the unique Farmer Hall and Dining Hall at this centre of learning, whilst the new gymnasium, completed some two years ago, has been inspected and very largely copied as a model building of this type. Recent additions by this firm at this School include, New Science Laboratories, New Dormitories, Bathing and Changing Rooms, and a new Sanitary Block.

The striking block of buildings comprising the Nurses' Home, Saverlake Hospital, the munificent gift of the Farmer Trustees, is also the work of "Rendells'."

Some other recent activities of this firm, who operate over a wide area in the South of England, include the following, viz.:-

Several large Private Residences in Bournemouth, on the Canford Cliffs Estate.

Little Bedwyn: New Farmer Homes for the Farmer Trustees.

Old Park, Devizes: Additions and reconstruction of Mansion and new Cottages.

Continued in Next Page.

Continued from preceding page.

New Hotels and Inns.

" Moonrakers," Devizes, for Messrs. Wadworth and Co., Ltd. " Cross Keys," Rowde, for Messrs. Wadworth and Co., Ltd. " Sir Audley's Arms," Chippenham for Messrs. Usher's Wiltshire Brewery, Ltd., Trowbridge. New Chapel, at Wilts Mental Hospital, Devizes: Many large and medium size houses in Devizes and other parts of the district. Housing Scheme for the Devizes Town Council. Public Water Supplies for Great Bedwyn and Kingsclere, etc. Many works for Lloyds Bank, Ltd. in various parts of the country. Restoration of country houses Church Restorations at St. Mary's Church, Devizes and St. John's Church, Devizes, and several others in the district. Country Cottages: Many restorations under the Housing Rural Works Act. To the foregoing list of some of their recent activities, we are confident that all who see and use this splendid building, which will be dedicated to the Healing of the Sick, will endorse the sentiments that by Melksham Hospital, F. Rendell and Sons, Ltd., have added to the characteristics of celebrity and quality which mark all their undertakings.

Avon Rubber Co., Ltd.

A very interesting feature of this building is the employment of rubber floors to all the corridors and throughout in the nurses' quarters. This wise provision by the Architect follows the latest practice of hospital specification where the many advantages of this material are employed to the full. In entrusting the work of installation of 500 yards of this material to the Avon India Rubber Co., Ltd., of Melksham, the Architects were not only supporting local industry but were safe in the knowledge that they were employing a firm whose reputation has been one of the finest in the trade since 1881 and who are acknowledged as one of the leading specialists in the installation of these floors in this country. The rubber is of 3-16ins. gauge throughout in a very pleasing marbled shade, and is laid in all nurses' and domestics' bedrooms, and all upstairs and downstairs corridors. An amazing degree of silence is thereby achieved. This very important quality, together with the other well-known features of rubber—wonderful durability and absolute cleanliness—combine to make this installation a note-worthy one from all points of view.

F. and R. Edbrooke, Bristol.

The Hospital is fitted throughout with metal windows of the best quality, known as "Purpose Made" as against the cheap cast-iron type known as "Standards." The contractors were Messrs. F. and R. Edbrooke, of the Meadow Street Ironworks, Bristol, whose manufactures have given entire satisfaction. A feature of these windows is that they give 100 per cent. ventilation, and incorporated in the windows are adjustable connecting rods which enable the upper casement to be slightly opened for ventilation in bad weather, the lower being kept closed, the whole being fully opened when desired.

A. S. Crees, Trowbridge.

The whole of the bricks used in the construction of the Hospital are the sand-faced red clay bricks supplied by Mr. A. S. Crees, of the Wyke Brickworks, Trowbridge. Fifty years guarantee against frost and sun are given and the large number of



THE SCENE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

handsome buildings already erected with Wyke bricks is ample testimony of their wearing qualities. Bricks from these works have been exposed to repetitions of freezing and thawing after soaking in water and after examination after each thaw no appreciable disintegration had been produced by four repetitions of this treatment.

H. J. Fisher, Melksham.

This firm were responsible for supplying extension ladders, locks, and latches with fittings and numerous domestic utensils. The firm of H. J. Fisher is so well known, not only in Melksham but the surrounding district, that little more need be said.

Henry White, Ltd., Melksham.

It was in keeping that an old establishment such as Henry White, Ltd., of Melksham, should have its full share in the equipping of the new Hospital, having been in business as general draper and gents' outfitters for the biggest part of a century. Their part in supplying has been done extremely well and to the entire satisfaction of the Trustees. Since the large extension of their premises about five years ago this Company has consistently forged ahead and has not only maintained its tradition of selling the best at a reasonable profit, but has added new departments, one in particular being the furnishing, carpets, floor coverings, and rugs. They carry large stocks of materials for curtain making and fitting these goods to customers own instructions. Looking round these premises one is impressed by the wide range of goods in stock, and local demands we feel sure can be obtained without leaving the town. This firm supplied the Hospital with all the sheets, blankets, bedspreads, towels of all kinds, shifting, table cloths, surgeon's gowns, mattress covers, dish cloths, floor rugs, covering rugs, mattress covers, also making and fitting the entire Hospital with curtains and blinds.

Arthur Scull and Son, Ltd., Bristol.

The heating, hot and cold water supply were carried out by Messrs. Arthur Scull and Son, Ltd., of 13, Redcliffe Street, Bristol, who are specialists in all classes of this work. They are one of the oldest-established and largest Heating, Ventilating, and Plumbing Contracting Firms in the West of England, with an extensive London connection, and have done the work at the Melksham Hospital to the designs and specification of Dr. Oscar Faber, O.B.E., D.C.L. (Hon.), D.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Consult-

ing Engineer, Romney House, Marsham Street, London, S.W.1. Hospital work for many years has been a speciality, and among those upon which they are engaged at the moment are the Royal Masonic Hospital, London; Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London; Royal Hospital, Folkestone; Royal Infirmary, Salisbury; Southmead Hospital Extensions, Bristol, and they have recently completed the extensions to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, Taunton. They are also advisory Sanitary Consultants to the Bristol General Hospital, Bristol Royal Infirmary, and Bristol Eye Hospital.

Charles Hart and Sons, Melksham.

Accurate time, an absolute necessity in any Hospital, will be obtained by the Smith electric clocks. These were supplied and installed by Messrs. Charles Hart and Sons, the well-known jewellers, etc., of 9 High Street, Melksham.

MELKSHAM THE SCHOOLS.

Two Fine Exhibitions.

St. Michael's Speech Day.

Two large classrooms at St. Michael's Church School were filled with parents and friends and children—boys and girls dressed in neat uniform suits and dresses—on Monday afternoon for the eighth annual speech day.

Canon F. H. Sangster (Vicar of Melksham and Rural Dean) presided, and supporting him were Mr. R. W. Saunders (Headmaster), Mr. H. Waterman (Wilts Education Officer), Mrs. Swanborough, Mr. L. K. Hall, Rev. J. E. T. Phillips (Vicar of Seend and former Melksham curate) and the Rev. A. G. F. Shaw (curate).

Canon Sangster said they were very proud of their schools—he did not mean the buildings, for they were getting out of fashion. When the re-organisation scheme of their schools came they would have to make a great many alterations at the school. It would cost a great deal of money, but they would have to face up to it; probably there were some in the school who would see the changes.

Canon Sangster went on to speak of the fine staff of teachers and said he had never come across a school with a happier atmosphere, and that was a thing that mattered. A report had been received from H.M. Inspectors; it was a splendid one, and he was very proud of it.

In the Headmaster's report mention is made of the recent measles epidemic in the town when the School was closed. This brought the average School attendance down to 91.5 per cent., which was much lower than other years. Mr. Saunders congratulated Olive Gibbons and her parents for five years unbroken attendance, also Cyril Viveash, who had an unbroken attendance for three years and Ivy Elms and Daisy Wheeler for one year.

The School was unable to enter for the Music Festival at Devizes because of the measles. Mr. Saunders said he wished the School Doctor and dentist could examine every child every year, but unfortunately it was a thing physically and financially impossible to do. At the Arts and Crafts Exhibition at Salisbury the School was successful in obtaining two firsts, four seconds, and one highly commended. Rita Holt was particularly successful at that exhibition. Next year they would like to see every child wearing the School uniform, for, the report stated, children can be taught by a School uniform to take a pride in their dress.

Mr. Waterman then presented the prizes. A list of the winners is printed below.

Mr. Waterman said he spent a great deal of his time in going round to schools, and one of the places where interesting things were to be seen was at that School. He liked to see children developing in confidence and a School should do that. A School should also be a place where children learned not to take things for granted. Then he said, a School should be an interesting place. There were obviously all sorts of interesting things going on in that school and his own opinion was confirmed by the report from H.M.

Inspectors which was received a short time ago.

In conclusion Mr. Waterman said he always sympathised with the children who did not obtain prizes and so he had brought along a book for the Headmaster to accept for the School library as a sort of prize for everyone who had not got one that day.

Mr. Hall proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Waterman, which was seconded by Mrs. Swanborough, and carried by acclamation.

The proceedings opened with the singing of the 23rd Psalm by the juniors, and after the vote of thanks a song, "The Jolly Ploughboy" was sung by K. Park and A. Mitcham. A sketch, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" was played by children of Standard II; Standard I sang "Mowing the Barley" and S. P. Abbott recited "Reynard the Fox"; then followed a further song by Standard III, "Where'er you walk," and a sketch "Eldorado", by Standard VI.

There was a most interesting exhibition of handwork, needlework, and cookery, arranged in other classrooms which shewed a fine standard of craftsmanship and good taste. This work was inspected by the visitors afterwards, who were much impressed by it.

Prizewinners and Awards.

Standard I: Stella Silk; II, Rita Williamson; III, Graham Cooper; IV, Geoffrey Cooper; V, Derrick Watson; VI, Olive Gibbons; Scripture, Geoffrey Cooper; progress, Brenda Haigh; needlework, Molly Roberts; attendance prize, Olive Gibbons; Headmaster's prize, Daisy Wheeler; Arts and Crafts Exhibition awards (firsts) Mary Kennelly and Michael Cooper; (seconds), June Dickson, Ruby Gibbons, Rita Holt, and Cyril Viveash.

Raleigh House won the Academic cup.

Sports.

Wellington House won the sports cup. Sports champions, Edward Watkins and Pauline Sawyer; youngest race winners, Barbara Jones and Frank Attrill; area sports, Pauline Sawyer and Poppy Fuller.

Visitors' Afternoon at Lowbourn.

It was a coincidence that the same afternoon (Monday) that St. Michael's School held their speech day, Lowbourn School had a visitors' afternoon. This was in place of the usual speech day which could not take place owing to the recent illness of the Headmaster, Mr. F. J. H. Watkins.

Lt.-Col. W. F. Fuller, D.S.O., the President of the School, was among those present and distributed the awards and prizes to the winners in the list below.

Besides this presentation there was a delightful programme of Maypole, Scandinavian, and country dancing and a display of physical training, which was particularly effective. The girls' display was under the direction of Mrs. Mansfield and the boys, under Mr. W. L. Mapson. Form 2a under Miss N. Windsor and 1b under Miss F. Wright did the dancing, which was prettily performed.

There was a magnificent exhibition of needlework and handwork arranged in the classrooms. Some of the needlework, designed and worked under the direction of Mrs. Mansfield, the senior mistress, shewed marvellous originality of colour and design. Other work on show included painting, modelling, including a clever model of the town, made from old cardboard boxes, and other examples of expression work.

It was a most interesting and pleasant afternoon which the parents and others spent, viewing work which had obviously been done by talented children with helpful teachers directing.

Col. Fuller, in presenting the awards, thanked the donors of the prizes. He referred to what had always occurred to him as being typical of Lowbourn School competitors in sports, namely that whether winning or losing they always carried out their races and other events with enthusiasm. When the time came for him to be put underground he could wish for no better epitaph than "This fellow was a jolly good sportsman."

The Headmaster expressed grateful thanks to the members of the staff who had, this year, carried through all the arrangements for the sports day and that visitors' afternoon. He particularly stressed the inestimable value of Mrs. Mansfield's organisation of the programme which they had just seen.

Academic and Sports Awards.

Form prizes: Ib, Sheila Hannaford, D. Bigwood; Ia, Pamela Barnes, June Dowling; 2b, R. Tylee; 2a, K. Gill, I. Potheary; Senior girls, M. Gullis, K. Gregory, V. Selman; senior boys, Harvey I. Salter, Satchell.

Industry and progress prizes: 1b, V. Bushell; 1a, A. Taylor, S. Jones; 2b—2a, C. Jones, Bridget Brown; senior girls, E. Duffin, G. Painter; senior boys, J. Davies.

General service prizes, 1b, A. Clarke, E. Gerrish, D. Earle; senior girls, P. White; senior boys, Gerrish, Greenman; English prize, J. Cantello; Headmaster's prize, D. Escott; domestic science cup, Margaret Jones.

Wolfe House won the academic cup, and a new cup for gardening, presented by Mrs. John Stancomb of Shaw House was won by D. Escott.

Certificates for industry and progress were won by J. Gaisford, R. Price, J. Price, C. Hale, C. Coward,

Continued in Next Page.

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When our entire remaining Stock will be offered at Ridiculously Low Prices, to make room for Xmas deliveries.

DURING AUGUST we shall hold a SALE of CHINA, GLASS, and HOUSEHOLD REQUIREMENTS. See Windows.

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F. W. VENTON & SONS,
Bath Road Garage, MELKSHAM.

Continued from preceding Page.

Maalen; general service certificates were awarded to Brenda Rogers, R. Hill, Joyce Cleverly, B. Wyatt, D. Neale, Monica Tylee, W. Gay, Eileen Adams; champion girl, M. Harrall; champion boy, F. Reynolds.

A cup presented by Mr. T. O. Usher, was awarded to M. J. Mortimer, the winner of the boys' senior marathon race.

LOWBOURNE SCHOOL CAROLLERS' OUTING.

It is a far cry from carolling on a bleak winter's night to bathing on a sunny summer's day—and in the glorious blue sea at Weymouth—but those of us who braved the former must have felt it well worth it last Wednesday, as we left Melksham for the sea. Not that singing to Melksham residents can be in any way described as an ordeal—despite the vagaries of the weather in December!

However, as has become customary, the 1937 carollers received the School's appreciation of their services in the form of a most enjoyable day's outing, there being some 47 in the party, including the Headmaster and staff.

The sun heralded our arrival at Weymouth by breaking through the mist, and blazed down the whole time we were there. The heat tempted a few to bathe, and many to paddle—the writer, less hardy, being content with their assurance that it was "lovely."

After a picnic lunch on the beach, a motor launch was hired and we were soon speeding across the waves en route for the Chesil Beach. It might be mentioned that those who were "fortunate" enough to be on the starboard side experienced the delights of drenching spray, but this by no means damped their enthusiasm. We had a genuine thrill as the launch slowed up alongside a mighty destroyer, and later we were treated to a close-up of four graceful submarines with their grey hulls and shining periscopes.

Back again to the beach, where tea was waiting at the Alexandra Gardens, and with two hours left, a few donned bathing costumes for a last dip, while the rest joined the happy throng of holiday-makers, all intent upon extracting every ounce of enjoyment from their stay.

Eight-thirty came all too soon, and it was difficult to believe we had spent ten hours by the sea.

So we bade farewell to Weymouth, and when Melksham was reached at 10.30 there was hardly a dissentient opinion that it had been a really grand day, and one that we shall certainly look back upon with pleasure this Christmas as we sing once again: "Goodwill to all men." E.H.N.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING.

The annual outing for all the Sunday Schools connected with the Parish Church was held at Neston Park by kind permission of Col. W. F. Fuller. This gentleman had made admirable arrangements for the visit of the children who numbered 306 in all, and included a company of the London children who are spending a holiday in the town.

Messrs. J. Crook kindly conveyed the children to Neston in motor lorries. The parents, to the number of 50, went by coach.

Games and sports, with prizes, were the chief attractions, and the hungry children were fed by their teachers, the catering arrangements being carried out by them, under Mr. F. Cane.

Canon F. H. Sangster and the curate from the Parish Church, were present, and a short service brought the happy outing to a fitting end.

A WONDERFUL WILTSHIRE LADY.

Mrs. Argentine Frewin, who celebrated her 103rd birthday on the 24th July is one of the most wonderful ladies living at the present time. On her 100th birthday she was delighted to receive a telegram from the King and Queen.

Mrs. Frewin was the daughter of the late Rev. Edward Wilton and Mrs. Wilton, of West Lavington, Wilts. She was born in 1835, and has survived all her brothers, husband, and three sons. Her youngest brother, who was one of the first pupils to enter Marlborough College, Wilts, resided in Melksham, until his death and his two daughters, Mrs. Fournier and Mrs. W. H. House have passed away—both residents of Melksham. Mrs. Frewin is in fairly good health, at her residence in Worthing, Sussex.

Whist.—There were fifteen tables in play at the partner whist drive at the Labour Club on Monday. Mr. F. Chivers was M.C., and prizes were won by Messrs. A. Phyllis and W. Miles, Mrs. Park and Mr. W. Gable, Mr. and Mrs. Mitten, Mrs. Frankin and Mrs. Lawes, Messrs. J. Gumb and R. C. Moore. The snowball was not won and is being carried forward; its value now will be 15. Next week's drive on Tuesday (see advt.).

THE COCKNEY "SPARROWS"—The children who arrived last week from London's dust streets have been having a grand time in the country round Melksham. On Wednesday evening, local members of 'Toc II kindly took them in a fleet of cars to Cherhill and Avebury. They seemed to enjoy their visit, in spite of rain which poured down from grey skies practically all the evening.

HOSPITAL REPORT for week ending July 26: Admitted 5, discharged 5, remaining 17, out-patients visits 75. The Committee beg to acknowledge with many thanks, the receipt of the following kind gifts: Mrs. Nash, eggs; W. Hood, books.

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