

Ross Pavilion of The Royal Victoria Hospital

*Splendid Memorial to the Late James Ross
Erected on Mountain Side at Montreal.*

THE development of hospitals in Canada and the United States during the past five years has been phenomenal; with three thousand hospitals in the United States and Canada in 1911, the number has grown to over eight thousand at the present time. Nowhere in the world has there been such strides in any architectural development. While the major increase has been with the small public hospitals for the poor and indigent, there has been, nevertheless, a marked growth of hospitals or pavilions for the exclusive use of those who can and are willing to pay. Nearly every large hospital to-day has its private ward pavilion, sometimes adjoining the main group, and sometimes isolated and under practically separate administration, so far as the food and nursing are concerned.

The problems and conditions given the architects of providing for one hundred and thirty private patients in the Ross Pavilion of the Royal Victoria Hospital, at Montreal, which was dedicated by their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, on the 11th of October, 1916, were somewhat unique.

The precipitous grade on the side of Mount Royal, where the main buildings are located, made the study of the site for the new private ward pavilion a most important factor. There was no room on the east; a location at the west on Pine Avenue would bring the new building into too close proximity with the existing group; so a location at the northwest, about three hundred feet from the present group at the edge of a plateau on the slope of the mountain, was selected.

After the selection of the site, the next problem was the approach; first, from the main hospital, and second, from the street. The first has been solved by tunnelling into the mountain, to a point directly under the staircase and lifts, and sinking a shaft to meet this tunnel, as the main floor of the new building is one hundred feet above the main floor of the original hospital. This tunnel leaves the second story of the main building, crosses a bridge, and then, with a five per cent. grade, reaches the lifts and staircase at a level of fifty feet below the ground floor. As to the second, the pavilion entrance is about



END VIEW OF ROSS MEMORIAL WING OF ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL, MONTREAL.