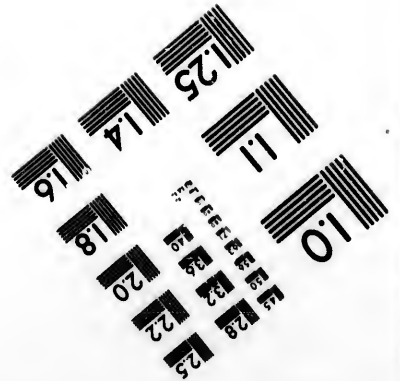
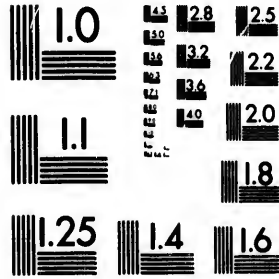


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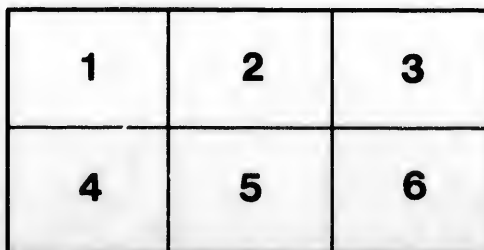
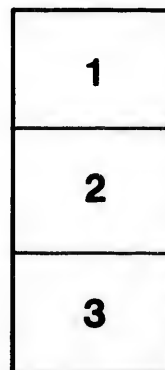
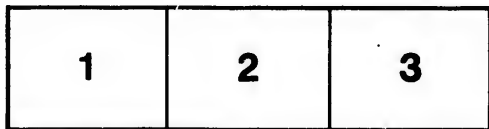
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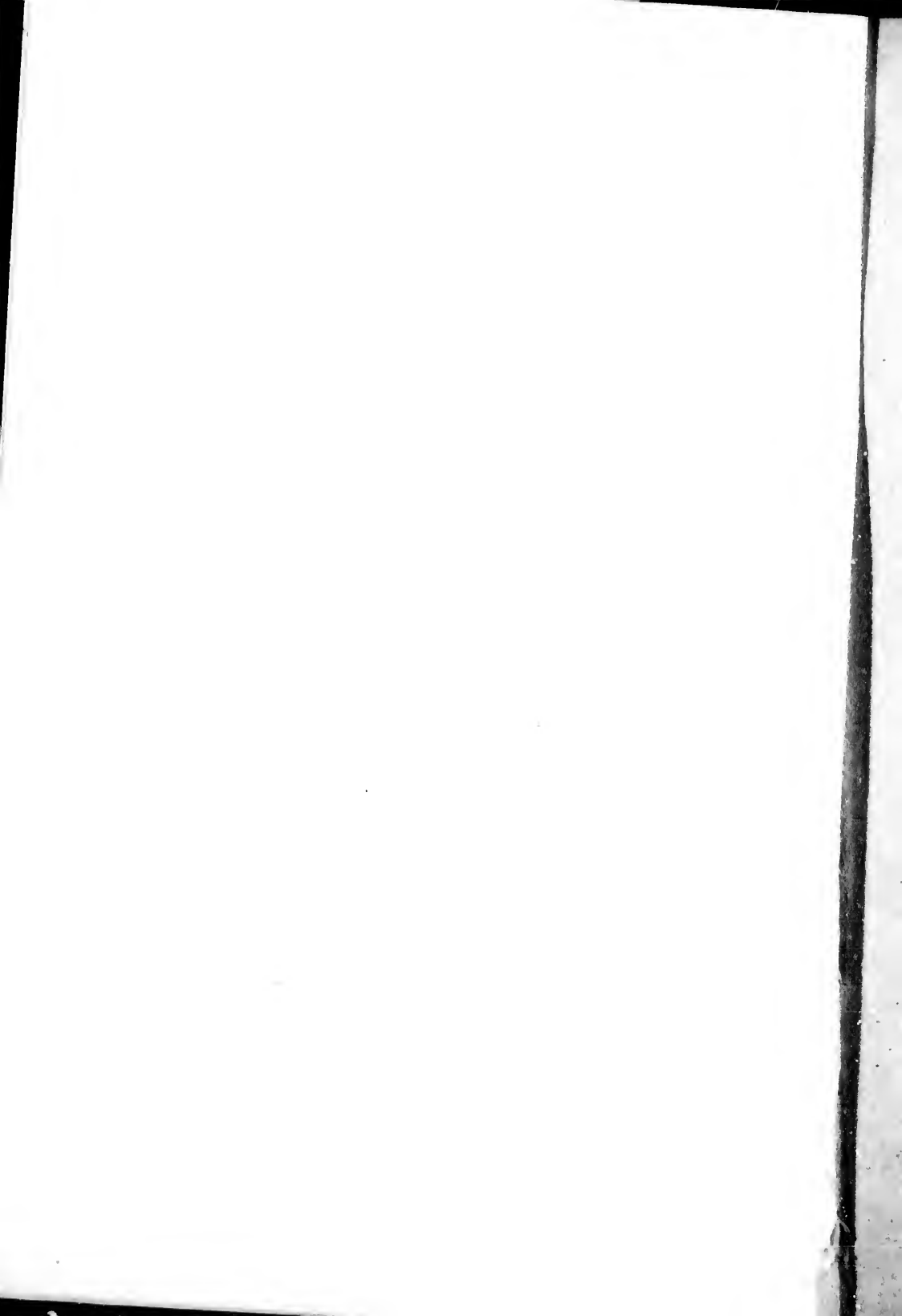
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AN ADDRESS GIVEN AT THE OPENING

OF THE

"FENWICK OPERATING ROOM,"

KINGSTON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 1895.

BY R. W. GARRETT, M. A., M. D., PROFESSOR OF
CLINICAL SURGERY, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY,
AND SURGEON TO KINGSTON
GENERAL HOSPITAL.

1895



SURGICAL ADVANCES AND HOSPITAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

DURING one's course through life there are some offices to be performed through necessity, some through a sense of duty, and some from the pleasure they afford, but of the many duties that have fallen to my lot none has afforded me more sincere gratification than to have to-day's opportunity of expressing on behalf of the surgical, and I think I may say also on behalf of the medical staff of the Hospital, their appreciation of the magnificent gift of this operating room, by our esteemed co-worker, Dr. K. N. Fenwick.

I do not think any of us can, on first consideration, appreciate the power for good which the doctor's gift has put in motion, the momentum of which will be felt in an increasing ratio for years to come, for we would have to take into consideration the myriads of lives that will have been spared, the countless pains that will have been alleviated, and the burdens of sorrow that will have been uplifted from suffering humanity by the advantages which this modern operating room offers, and which could not be offered under previous existing circumstances.

This is a progressive age, and the Board of Governors, imbued with the spirit of progress, have not lagged behind. The visitors who entered its portals fifteen years ago, were they suddenly transported to the scenes of to-day, would be struck with amazement at the gigantic strides that have been made. When speaking of the work of to-day, it is not my wish to minimize in the least the work of those who formed its main support from the time of its establishment in 1844. There was often an uphill and discouraging work, but notwithstanding for over fifty years this hospital has extended its sheltering arms with tenderest love and care to the suffering of every class and creed, the inspiring impulse of the governors being that humanity's call for aid should never go unheeded.

Each year, as time rolled on, saw changes and improvements as necessity demanded, until now, upon the foundation laid in years gone by there has been raised a superstructure perfect in its parts and honorable to the builders.

Within the last fifteen or twenty years the whole features of hospital work have changed. As an outcome of recent research a new work has risen up for it, which demands for its success a thorough technique, skilful nursing and good hygienic surroundings.

In days gone by the work was considered complete when it furnished food, shelter and medical attendance for the sick poor, supplying in cleanliness those comforts which their own surroundings denied them. Thus it was that our Hospital was filled with the poor only. Few beyond such occupied a bed in the wards or applied for medical treatment. Those in other stations of life only darkened the threshold to perform some kindly office, or to speak some word of comfort to its occupants.

Allow me, for a moment, to point out the causes which have led to such transformations in hospital management, equipment and technique, and which bring to us to-day patients from every class and station in life for treatment.

When Sir Joseph Lister announced his gospel of Antisepsis there burst upon the surgical world a new light which shed its rays to every corner, and a new era was given to medical science. No longer ago than 1876, Von Langenbeck was heard to say at a Clinic in Berlin: "A new method has been advanced by an English surgeon, who predicates the principle of wound treatment upon the destruction of organic germs, which he assumes to be the cause of wound disturbances. The excellent results claimed by him are not in accord with those we obtain, hence I can hardly grasp their perfection; yet, notwithstanding my experience, I feel it incumbent upon me to test them in practice." The old master, then reputed throughout the world as the father of joint-resection, did not hesitate to become the pupil of young Richard Von Volkman, who had just returned from London, having there studied the methods of Joseph Lister. Von Langenbeck was soon convinced that Listerism was not a phantasm. The curse of centuries was ended. While before antisepsis eighty per cent. of all wounds treated at the University Clinic at Munich were affected with hospital gangrene, this disease was now looked upon by the students as a



THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, KINGSTON, ONT.
(VIEW FROM HARBOR FRONT)

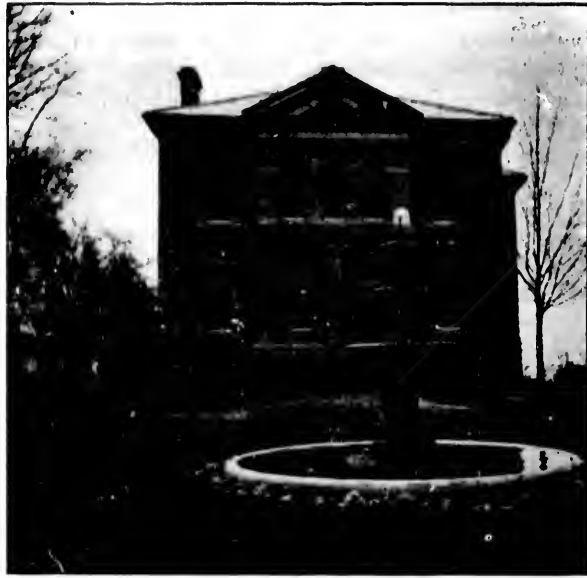
rarity. Formerly the mortality from amputations reached even sixty per cent.; thenceforth deaths directly traceable to amputations were the exceptions.

America was not slow to feel the powerful impetus, and my esteemed friend, A. P. Gerster, in his excellent work, "Aseptic and Antiseptic Surgery," was the first to bring Listerism to the front. Closely following the vanguard was Midwifery, into which important branch of practice antiseptic surgical principles were soon introduced for which Henry J. Garrigue deserves especial credit, as well as the renowned Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Notwithstanding the mighty upheaval in surgery made by Antisepsis, the progressive tendency of surgery did not permit Listerism to rest upon its achievements. The advance movement was primarily manifested in bacteriological investigations, and through the agency of such investigations, conducted over a period of seven years, from 1881 to 1888, Robert Koch was able to announce and prove by indisputable evidence that the microbes found in the atmosphere were mainly of an innocuous character. With the acknowledgement of this fact came the downfall of the "Spray" and the birth of Asepsis.

Under a conscientious practice of this method delicate structures are now saved from contact with toxic substances, such as carbolic acid and corrosive sublimate; wounds are found to heal without re-action; skull and abdomen are opened without thought of danger, and operations are now performed daily which, before the dawn of the new era, would not have even been conceived by the boldest or most reckless operator. It reduced the death rate in amputations to two per cent., while in the early period of Listerism the death rate was sixteen per cent. The mortality from laparotomies fell from fifty per cent. to less than ten per cent., and to-day I am afraid to state how low the percentage is, so rapidly has the death rate declined. The same strides have been made in midwifery, as shown by the recent report of four hundred births at a maternity asylum in New York, without a single death.

The views and methods now in use will doubtless change somewhat. The use of the microscope has sapped the very foundations of the pathology taught twenty years ago, and to-day we are still endeavoring to wring from nature, by means of experimentation and biological research, those manifold mys-



THE DORAN BUILDING.

teries which clinical observations have failed to reveal; but whatever these changes may be, they cannot disturb the glorious foundation laid by Joseph Lister. To Lister we owe the mother Antisepsis, and though she died in parturition, she brought forth her idealization, Asepsis.

With such magnificent results achieved in other places, brilliant before us, it was but the duty of the Board of Governors and of staff to take advantage of those reformations in order that they might share some of the brilliancy, if not add new lustre to it.

When we know that aseptic surgery means the life and well being of the sufferer under favorable circumstances, and septic surgery means death under any circumstances, it is but our duty to carry out its principles in their minutest details, following its fundamental laws with almost slavish servility. As a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, so surgery is only as aseptic as its weakest point. In order that success may follow in our wake, it is necessary to make every link in the great chain of management as strong as any link ever forged for hospital work.

"Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis." If, then, we hoped to achieve all that asepsis promised, a change in the nursing was urgently demanded, and thus it was that a small training school, with one superintendent and two nurses in training, was initiated. The great vantage ground thus gained was soon seen in the improved nursing in the wards, while the general public was not slow to see the benefits of a trained nurse. The demand for educated, intelligent women, specially trained to wait upon the sick, became so urgent, that to-day, to supply its requirements and those of the wards the services of twenty-one nurses are demanded.

A Medical Superintendent was added to the staff to oversee and manage the general internal arrangements and to have constantly on hand a properly qualified practitioner to meet urgent demands. Originally there were four Medical Officers and two House Surgeons; now there are nine, divided up into various departments, and four House Surgeons.

For years it had been felt that there should be some classification of patients according to their diseases, or in other words that those suffering from infectious and contagious diseases should be isolated. For that work Mrs. Nickle generously



THE DORAN BUILDING. (Side View.)

donated sufficient money to erect that massive building known to all of us as the Nickle Wing. This building is approached by a separate stairway and is cut off from the main building by open galleries. It is heated and ventilated by the Smead-Dowd system and has the most perfect sanitary fittings.

Up to October, 1891, no special provision had been made for the reception of children; they were scattered throughout the wards, which for obvious reasons was considered undesirable. With the erection of the Nickle Wing the Governors were able to set apart for a children's ward, a large, bright, airy room, in the Watkins Wing. For the name, "St. Andrew's Children's Ward," the children belonging to St. Andrew's Church undertook to prepare, furnish and fully equip the ward with everything necessary, and to take an abiding active interest in it.

The private rooms are located in the Watkins Wing, a plain, substantial building, erected many years ago through the generosity of Mr. John Watkins, a Kingston citizen. These also have been so neatly and completely furnished by kind friends as to offer those requiring hospital treatment all the comforts of home life, with, in addition, nurses constantly in attendance.

The old Mott ward was taken in hand by the ladies of St. George's Cathedral and fitted up for a medical apartment for women. The transformation that has taken place here is truly marvellous. The high modern iron bedsteads enamelled white, spring mattresses, spotless white linen, and scrupulously clean hardwood floor, give one, on entering, a feeling that is at once refreshing and full of hope.

Sampson, Yates and Strange wards have all been similarly improved. Tables especially constructed for the purpose are at each bedside, on which the meals are served in tasty dishes.

The main entrance has been brightened by plate-glass doors; the old, small-light windows have been replaced by windows in plate and ornamental glass, the effect of which has been to give an improved tone to the whole building.

Turning our thoughts to the outside one cannot help noticing how attractive the grounds have been made. The mound, after being for forty years given over to wild grass and weeds, has been laid out in a picturesque flower plot and surmounted by a beautiful marble figure, the gift of His Grace Archbishop



AT WORK IN THE NEW AMPHITHEATRE.

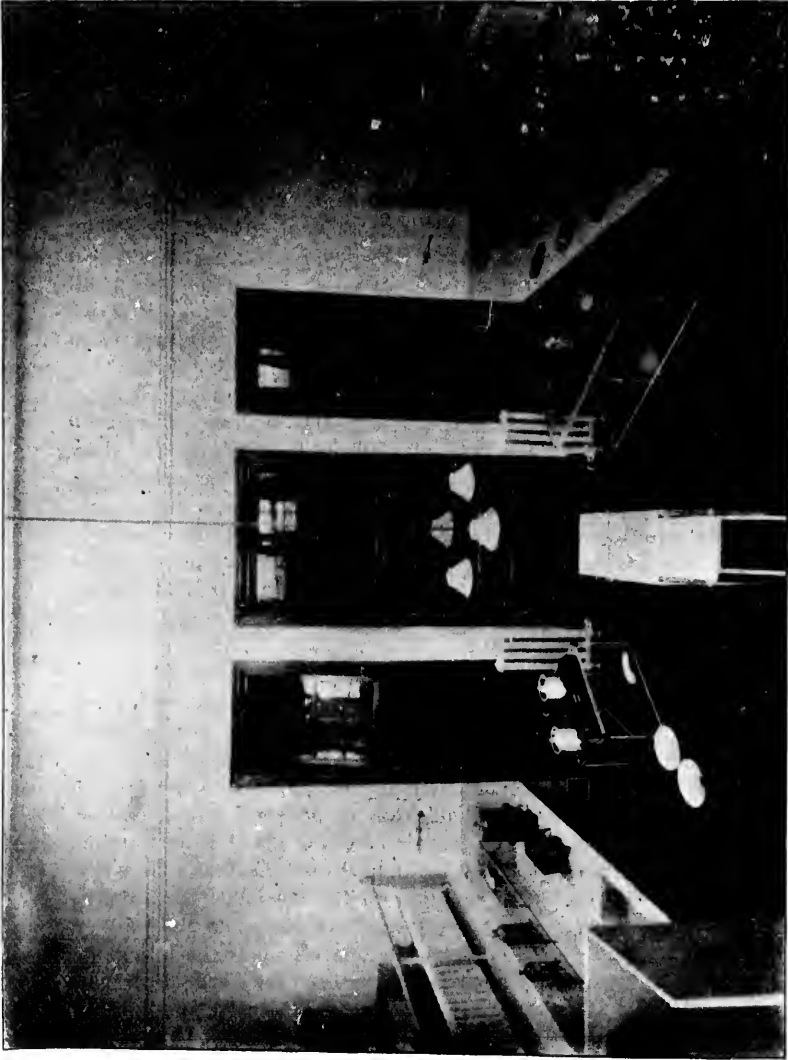
clearly; the old wooden fence has been replaced by a substantial stone wall; the ground on the south side of the main building has been neatly laid out as a grass plot, and is regularly mowed and kept in trim. A driveway, neatly rounded off with ashes, has been made, and new iron gates with stone piers set up. The plot in front of the buildings is tastefully laid out in flower areas, in the midst of which is an ever-flowing fountain the gift of Mr. B. W. Robertson.

The Doran Building is a model in every respect and provides for the special care and treatment of women. The main entrance presents a handsome vestibule and staircase, furnished in hardwood. On the right is a room for visitors, on the left is the head nurse's room. Passing on we come to the operating room on the right, a room which has been much admired for its completeness by expert judges. On the left are six private rooms, each one with a gas grate and neatly though plainly furnished. On the second floor are the maternity wards, so arranged as to classify the inmates. The whole building is heated by hot water and ventilated by a fan kept in motion by an electric motor. It would be hard to find a more complete building for the purposes for which it was intended.

The room which we occupy to-day speaks for itself, for its beauty of design, for its elegant and chaste appearance, and for its thorough equipment and modern appointments, I have no hesitation in saying that it has no rival in Canada and very few in the United States.

But we must not stop here; the present progress must be an incentive to us to press on and continue in the good work so well inaugurated, for you may

“Count that day lost, whose low declining sun,
Sees no good deed in worthy action done.”



OPERATING ARENA FROM GALLERY SEATS.

THE NEW AMPHITHEATRE.

From British Whig, Oct. 13th, 1875.

It is an old and true saying that "time works many changes." This adage is verified by a visit to the General Hospital, and a comparison of its present efficient condition, new buildings, modern fixtures, new ideas everywhere, and as it existed some ten or a dozen years ago, with its old-fashioned square main building and the plain but substantial Watkins Wing tacked on the east side. What a metamorphosis in so short a time; it is far beyond what the most fertile brain at that time ever dreamed of! Look to-day at the tremendous advancement, at the institution as it stands to-day, its group of beautiful structures wherein the rich and poor are treated alike and given the most advanced treatment modern science has prescribed, while surrounded with all the luxury that taste could suggest and wealth procure. The latest addition to the fine group of buildings is the Fenwick Operating Amphitheatre, claimed to be among the finest of its class on the continent. It is situated in the rear and slightly to the east of the main building, from which it is easily reached.

The building is semi-circular in form and covers an area of 1,580 square feet. The walls are of local limestone, rock-faced ashlar work, with cut limestone dressings. The interior of the building is finished in white pine, and the walls are plastered with rock-wall plaster, from Hillsborough, N.B. The floor of the arena is of slate and its walls of polished Italian marble. The ceiling is of ground glass, containing about three hundred square feet, through which the light is diffused from a large skylight in the roof. In addition to the skylight, the arena is lighted by ten circular headed windows placed in the walls of the building. Rising above the marble dado enclosing the arena, at a good elevation, there are three rows of semi-circular seats, affording ample accommodation and view for one hundred students.

The interior is approached from the main corridor by another corridor, on the right of which, as one walks down, are the surgical supply, recovery and anæsthetic rooms, while on the

left is a dark room for eye and throat work, and the surgeon's room, fitted up with apartments for operating robes and containing a handsome instrument case, the gift of Dr. Fleming, a graduate of last spring. The recovery room is equipped to treat all accidents or complications that may occur during or after operations, and in this room patients are delayed until recovery from the anæsthetic is complete. The anæsthetic room is equipped with all the necessaries required during the administration of an anæsthetic, and the usual restoratives in case of threatened danger.

A pathological room adjoins the anæsthetic room, and is so furnished that microscopical and other investigations can be undertaken and completed at any stage of an operation. This room was fitted up through the kindness of Dr. Wood. The operating room, on entering, must at once strike the eye of even the most careless observer with the idea of perfection; its beautiful white walls, white enamelled seats and hand-rails, rich Italian marble dado; its marble and plate-glass shelves for basins and glassware give an idea of symmetry, beauty and richness seldom if ever seen even in the most modern operating room.

The arena is furnished with an Edebohl's operating table, with the Morris extension; three glass tables for trays and instruments, a boiler for sterilizing water, and two sterilizers made of polished copper. On either side of the arena are sets of water basins, furnished with hot and cold water taps, for the necessary ablutions. The glassware, complete in every detail for operating purposes and for retaining sterilized dressings, towels and other similar material, is the gift of Dr. A. P. Chown.

A large beautifully lighted room below, 33 by 26 feet, furnishes a waiting room for students and others, while adjoining it there is a cloak and wash room. The stairway leading to the room above affords easy access to the seats in the amphitheatre or to the wards. The sanitary ware throughout is of the most modern and perfect kind. The building is thoroughly heated by hot water, and is ventilated with warm air shafts. Neither time nor money has been spared to make it an ideal operating room, and the architect, Wm. Newlands, who has devoted much of his time and attention to it, should be proud of the success which has crowned his efforts.

