

## MEDICAL PROGRESS IN MALAYA.

### KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT SINGAPORE.

THE opening in February of the new King Edward VII College of Medicine at Singapore was briefly described in our issue of April 3rd (p. 623). Additional information has now reached us, together with photographs of the college and the new general hospital, some of which are here reproduced. The frontage of the college measures 120 feet, and its main feature is a lofty façade of fluted Doric pillars, 50 feet high. The façade is flanked by wings set back slightly and adorned by sculptural panels representing the teaching and practice of medicine. Over the central doorway there is a striking mass of relief sculpture, and the names of various sciences appear over the subsidiary entrances along the front. The building is constructed of ferro-concrete, and cost about £58,000. The main hall seats 500 persons, and, in addition to four laboratories, there are lecture and research rooms, good library accommodation, reading rooms, and a museum. An electro-cardiograph has been installed at a cost of £400, and a special effort has been made to bring the equipment in other ways up to the most modern requirements. The building used previously as the college has now been converted into an anatomy school.

There are usually about 100 to 150 students at the college; some are maintained by the Government, some pay fees, and the remainder are in receipt of scholarships and exhibitions. The number of applicants for admission as students is now so large that selection has become necessary, candidates being chosen mainly on the results of the Senior Cambridge examination. At one time many students came from India, and a few from the Dutch Indies, but the Dutch Medical Service has established a well equipped medical school at Weltvreeden, and preference is now given at Singapore to candidates from Malaya, for whom two commodious hostels have been erected. A dental school is now being opened for the first time, with a course lasting four years.

Medical education in Singapore may be traced back to 1892, when a course was started for assistant surgeons, but was abandoned owing to the small number who attended. In 1905 a group of enlightened Chinese presented a petition to the Governor, asking for the establishment of a medical school, and proved their sincerity by raising a sum of over £9,000. By the conversion of existing buildings and the construction of a lecture room and chemical laboratory, the Government inaugurated a medical school, which was opened by Sir John Anderson in 1905, and five years later the first group of students received their diplomas. The institution was known until comparatively recently as the King Edward VII Medical School, but has now adopted the title "College of Medicine." In 1913 a professorship was founded by the King Edward VII Memorial Fund, and in 1925 the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation endowed two professorships on condition that the Government provided a third chair; the chairs are in biology,

biochemistry, and bacteriology. The present considerable cost of upkeep is borne jointly by the Government of the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States.

### NEW HOSPITAL, SINGAPORE.

As shown in the general view, the college is situated close to the extensive general hospital, which was formally opened by Sir Laurence Guillemard, Governor of the Straits Settlements, on March 29th. The site on which the hospital is built included originally a conical hill and a deep ravine, so that the building of a hospital in one block would have been impossible. The hill has been levelled and the ravine filled, remaining inequalities of level being skilfully used in constructing the new buildings. The hospital consists of three main blocks of wards, hostels for nurses and students, residential quarters for dressers, a pathological laboratory, an out-patients' block, a maternity hospital, and other buildings. The pavilion type has been adopted throughout, a long central corridor dividing the wards on each side, which thus obtain abundant light and air. Blocks for the first and third class wards have five pavilions of two stories each, the central corridors being 500 feet long, and the pavilions 280 feet from wing to wing. It is hoped that the scheme will be completed next year, when accommodation will be available for 800 patients. The total cost of the building will be about £525,000.

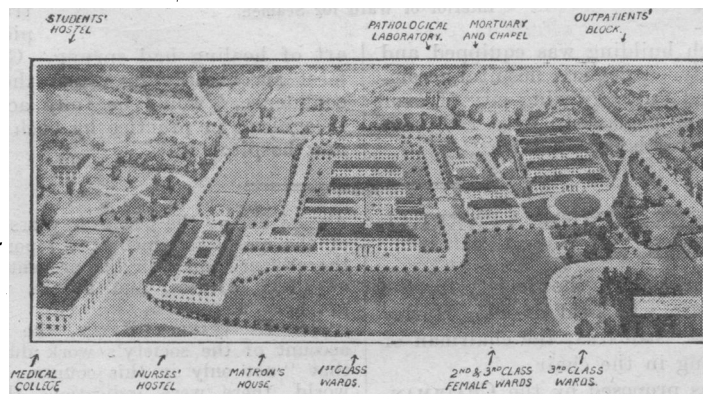
The wards, operating theatres, and x-ray rooms were planned in consultation with the medical officers, who considered carefully all the various details, so that the maximum efficiency might be obtained. The main block of first-class wards provides 256 beds. It has a small corridor ending in a spacious waiting room for the nose, throat, and ear department; in this corridor are entrances to the theatres for clean and septic cases respectively. Each theatre is fitted with a special installation for the provision of illumination similar to that of daylight. Terrazzo floors and sani-onyx and tiled walls facilitate cleansing. Throughout the building

all internal angles are covered, and the doors and fittings are so designed as to avoid there being any projecting mouldings. Sterilizing and disinfecting chambers open off the main corridors of this block, and near them are well equipped kitchens, for Europeans, Chinese, and Mohammedans. As will be seen from the illustration, the wards are high and well lit; adequate artificial ventilation is available, and their floors are covered with rubber sheeting, which renders them noiseless and easily cleansed. Two of the four pavilion wards contain forty-eight beds, one fifty-six, and another seventy-two; there are thirty-two beds in a special ward devoted to the treatment of tuberculosis; the total number of first class beds is 256.

A special ward is provided for seamen. The admission block of this building comprises three floors, and in addi-



King Edward VII College of Medicine.



General View of New Hospital.

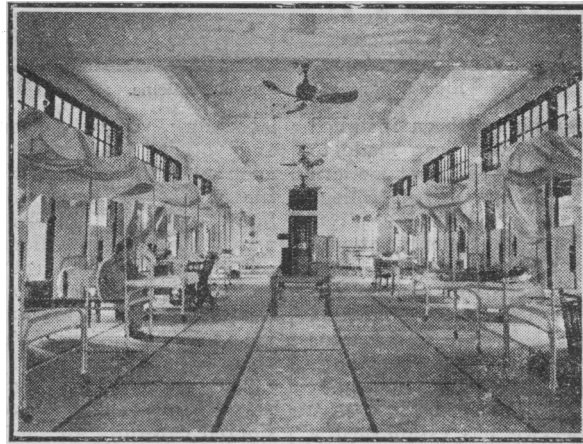
tion to the administration offices, observation and detention wards are provided. All the wards have verandahs which serve as day-rooms for the convalescent patients; beds can also be moved out on to these verandahs, so that patients may obtain the full benefit of light and air.

The block of third-class wards similarly includes five pavilions connected with each other by corridors, staircases, and lifts. The floors of the wards are in smooth cement, and all the sanitary blocks are cut off from the main buildings by ventilation lobbies. There are seventy-two beds in the reception ward and one of the ordinary wards; the three other wards each contain ninety-six beds. Two second and third class blocks for female patients have each accommodation for seventy-two. The admission block in this building has two floors, and includes subadministrative offices, a dispensary, and observation, detention, and reception wards. There is also a minor operating theatre block, with a theatre on each floor. Provision is made in an isolation block for chronic and observation cases. Separate kitchens for Mohammedans, Sikhs, and Bengalis are provided in the third-class block.

A simple style of architecture was adopted throughout so that all the buildings might be constructed as economically as possible. The new hospital has been designed in accordance with the most modern principles, applied with special consideration for the requirements of tropical conditions. The buildings were erected independently, eleven contractors being employed: each building was equipped and occupied as soon as it was ready. Adequate hospital accommodation is thus now provided for a growing city of over 400,000 inhabitants, for whom previously only 250 beds were available. The building was begun in 1920.



First-class Wards and Administration Block.



Interior of Ward for Seamen.

#### OPENING OF THE HOSPITAL BY THE GOVERNOR.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on March 29th, Dr. A. L. Hoops, the principal civil medical officer, referred to

the active support for many years given by the Governor, Sir Laurence Guillemard, to the improvement of public health in Malaya, the reorganization of the medical departments after their depletion during the war, and his encouragement of the provision of the most modern methods for the prevention and treatment of disease. He reviewed the progress made, and mentioned particularly the

establishment of a school for sanitary inspectors, the highly successful antimalarial and hookworm campaigns, the extension of stationary and travelling dispensaries in many districts, the erection of hospitals and leper asylums in Penang, Malacca, and elsewhere, and the provision of quarantine stations, convalescent homes, and maternity hospitals. The Governor, replying, emphasized the high importance in administering a tropical colony of attention to the public health. For this it was necessary to provide such material agencies as institutions for medical treatment, with fully trained and skilful medical and nursing staffs, but it was also vital that those concerned in this work should be inspired with, and be able to communicate to their patients, that faith which was the central principle of the Aesculapian cult from which the

art of healing had sprung. Galen's message, "He cures most successfully in whom the people have the greatest confidence," would be fully accepted and its implications recognized in practice by each member of the staff of the new hospital.

#### SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

The seventh annual general meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease was held at 143, Harley Street, on July 28th, Dr. J. H. SEQUEIRA, the chairman of the Executive Committee, being in the chair.

The following resolution was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mrs. LATTER, chairman of the Women's Committee, and carried unanimously:

That this annual general meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease respectfully urges the Government to grant facilities to the Venereal Disease Act, 1917, Amendment Bill, in view of the support that it has received from the British Social Hygiene Council and the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease and the medical members of the House of Commons.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the first sentence of the memorandum of Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, entitled *An Outline of the Practice of Preventive Medicine*, should be adopted as the motto of the society, the sentence running: "The first duty of medicine is not to cure disease but to prevent it." The report of the late Sir William Leishman on the health of the army was quoted, and the remarkable fall in the incidence of venereal

disease during the last four years was brought to the attention of the meeting, which, the report stated, was attributable to the advance made in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of these diseases, and to the vigorous antivenereal disease propaganda.

Mr. H. WANSEY BAYLY, the honorary secretary, gave an account of the society's work during the past year, and said that "not only in this country, but throughout the civilized world, there were indications that there had developed an appreciation of the danger of neglect of the venereal menace and a recognition that education in immediate self-disinfection was one of the important means of meeting this drain on the health, industry, and purse of nations and individuals."

Mr. BASIL PETO, M.P., was elected president of the society, and stated that the House of Commons was beginning to realize the importance of the society's work, and that all the medical members of Parliament with one exception, and many lay members of all political parties, had promised their support to a bill to amend the Venereal Disease Act, 1917, so as to permit the sale by chemists of approved disinfectants, accompanied by approved printed instructions, as recommended in the report of Lord Trevethin's Committee of Inquiry.

Mr. HARRY MACHIN, the honorary treasurer, emphasized the necessity of obtaining financial support from the public in view of the fact that the society received no Government grant and was entirely dependent upon the subscriptions and donations of those members of the public who realized the national importance of its work.