LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Maudsley Hospital Extension.

On July 14, 1939, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Athlone, *K.G.*, *P.C.*, Chancellor of the University of London, opened a new extension of the Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E. 5.

The hospital was originally designed to hold 108 beds, a number gradually increased to 200. The first large extension, comprising a considerable alteration of existing buildings and the provision of additional buildings, was brought into use in September, 1936. It included a new out-patient department, special treatment blocks, an extension of accommodation for the Central Pathological Laboratory, an operating theatre and improved domestic sections.

The second extension, now opened, comprises blocks for private patients in single rooms and a block specially designed for the in-patient treatment of children, with adequate accommodation for a separate children's out-patient department.

Dr. Maudsley wished the hospital to serve a triple purpose: Research, teaching and treatment. A word should be said about the fulfilment of each of these functions.

The Rockefeller Foundation has given general support to research work at the hospital and the laboratory since 1935, when a grant of £3,000 a year for three years was made to finance investigations, one-half of it to be spent on research under the control of the Director of the Laboratory, one-half to be under the direction of the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital. In 1938 a further grant of £5,000 a year, to be continued for five years, was made by the Rockefeller Foundation and this is divided equally between the laboratory and clinical research, as before. The Commonwealth Fund of America also has contributed in the past a substantial sum for research fellowships at the Maudsley Hospital.

Teaching.—Since 1924 the Hospital has been a school of the University of London, and since 1936 the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital and the Director of the Central Laboratory (Dr. Samuel Nevin, M.R.C.P.) have held University chairs in psychiatry and in the pathology of mental disease, respectively. A close liaison with its near neighbour, King's College Hospital, has enabled the Medical Superintendent of the Maudsley Hospital to share in undergraduate teaching in psychological medicine at King's College Hospital. The Maudsley Hospital staff have been associated also with the instruction offered by the British Post-Graduate Medical School at Hammersmith. It is this association of the Hospital and of the Central Pathological Laboratory with University teaching which lends special appropriateness to the acceptance by the Chancellor of the University of London of the invitation that he should perform the opening ceremony on July 14.

All aspects of the Hospital's work have grown enormously from small beginnings. Thus the number of new out-patients, including children, seen in one year is now upwards of 4,000, whereas in 1924 it was only 894. Out-patient treatment represented another pioneer development of work in a public mental hospital. The number of in-patients admitted to the Hospital in a year is now between 800 and 900.

The small provision originally made for treatment of private patients in single rooms has long been appropriated for other purposes, and the need for adequate private accommodation has been felt for some time. The new blocks now opened include a building of two wings designed to meet the needs of persons who desire treatment, but may find it not altogether congenial to receive it in association with other patients in open wards, and are prepared to pay a charge which will cover the cost to be incurred by the Council in providing separate accommodation and care in single rooms. The structure and organization is such that very careful classification will be possible, and no patient will have to be treated in the neighbourhood of others whose illness is of a different, and possibly disturbing, type. No patient will be admitted who does not come in of his own free will and desiring treatment. Patients will not be received unless the outlook for recovery is good.

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There is no intention of receiving chronic patients or retaining those whose conduct would be likely to disturb others.

The new private patients' building has its own attractive garden, which separates it from the original hospital buildings, except for sub-way communication which gives access to rooms for occupational therapy and physical treatment, gymnasium, entertainment hall, billiards room and library. An attractive roof garden has been planned which will cater specially for those who need greater privacy than a downstairs garden, overlooked from above, will provide.

The new children's block, which also is to be opened, is a completely new departure, for nowhere in Great Britain is there specialized in-patient accommodation for children whose troubles need psychiatric investigation and treatment. In spite of the great development of child guidance and child psychiatry generally, the lack of adequate in-patient facilities hitherto has been a conspicuous defect of British psychological medicine. To meet this, and to provide adequate and separate accommodation for an out-patient clinic for children, hitherto carried on in the same building as the adult out-patient department, a special detached block has been constructed. It is planned to meet the needs not of the backward or mentally defective child, but of the far more difficult case of the nervous child with conduct disturbance that calls for close individual attention. The out-patient department of the new building is already fully at work: the residential accommodation is not yet occupied.

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