

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL.
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

**THE POOR LAW INSTITUTIONS
IN SURREY.**

REPORT
OF THE
COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER.

9/7/30.

EPSOM GUARDIANS' INSTITUTION.

ADDRESS.

Dorking Road, Epsom.

SITE.

The site is a good open one and is approximately 10½ acres in area, of which about 7½ acres are unoccupied by buildings. It is within half a mile of the Southern Railway Station, and omnibus services pass the entrance to the Institution. There is ample room for extension of the Institution, but the boundary on the south-east side is only about 10 feet from the Nurses' Home. It would appear desirable that part of the adjacent land at this point should be acquired so as not to cramp the buildings concerned. It would also serve for the provision of additional recreation facilities for the staff of the Institution, for whom there is little recreation at the present time. The situation is an open one. The entrance to the Institution is on the main Epsom-Dorking Road.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The Institution comprises the House portion – including the casual wards – and the Hospital blocks.

All parts of the Institution are entered by the one gate in Dorking Road.

The original block was erected in 1839, and has been added to from time to time. The last block – the female Hospital wing – was completed in 1928. The original House consists of Board Room and Master's quarters in the centre, with male and female wings at either side. The planning is in many respects similar to Kingston, being the design of the same architect. In 1890, an additional wing was added to the male portion of the House.

The old Infirmary constitutes an isolated block near the entrance. A chaplain's house is provided near the entrance, a laundry block in the south corner, and nurses' home and children's home in the south-east. The casual wards are situated near the entrance.

The Hospital occupies the east side of the site.

The buildings generally are in a good state of preservation.

ADMINISTRATION.

The Institution is administered through a Master and a Matron. The Matron is also Superintendent Nurse of the Hospital. There is a part-time Medical Officer.

ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK.

The Administrative block is contained in the centre portion of the House. It includes the Master's and Matron's quarters, Board Room and offices. It appears to be adequate. There is a porter's lodge at the entrance.

STAFF ACCOMMODATION.

HOUSE – The House officer's accommodation is poor and inadequate. The quarters are situated at various points throughout the House. In some cases staff are occupying accommodation which could with advantage be allocated to patients.

HOSPITAL – The original nurses' home has been added to, and the accommodation provided is just sufficient for the present needs of the staff. An extension, however, could be carried out without difficulty. As pointed out under "Site" the boundary of the Institution is very near to the windows of the nurses' home, and the acquirement of a suitable portion of the adjacent land, which at present is partly used for private recreation purposes, would appear to be desirable.

RECREATION.

One under-sized grass tennis court is provided. It is not sufficient to meet the needs.

ADMISSION OF PATIENTS AND INMATES.

All cases are admitted through the entrance in Dorking Road. There are receiving wards of 5 male and 5 female beds, which appear to be adequate.

ACCOMMODATION FOR ORDINARY CASES.

Two wings of the main House block are used for accommodating Ordinary cases. Each wing has three floors. With the exception of one block the planning is of old type with steep and awkward staircases. There is a lack of ventilation and lighting due to the old-fashioned type of windows. In most parts of the first and second floors there is no plastered ceiling. The internal walls of the whole of the old House are unplastered.

The north wing of the male House, which was erected in 1890, is of good type, The wards are of good size, well lighted and ventilated, and the internal surfaces are of brown glazed brick.

An addition to the female wing gives extra accommodation for nursery cases and nursing mothers, an also for female staff. The condition of this wing is very fair.

Many of the floors of the original House are in a bad condition and should be repaired.

ACCOMMODATION FOR SICK CASES.

The old infirmary is a detached building and is now used for male and female infirm cases. The Assistant Master's quarters are also situated in the building.

With the exception of the top floor, the female side of this building is good. The lighting of the top floor could be improved by the introduction of further windows.

The male side is not in good condition, but could be made satisfactory if internal plastering was done and new windows put in.

The two original blocks of the main Hospital were built about 1880, an the third block about 1928. The three blocks are of two-stories and are in good condition. The north block is used by males and the two blocks in the south are occupied by females.

The Hospital wards are of all of good hospital type with verandas and balconies capable of taking bed cases. They are well lighted and ventilated. The equipment is good.

A timber framed one-storey structure, erected during the War, is situated near the Hospital blocks and gives accommodation for 26 Beds. There is a lack of sanitary accommodation, but otherwise this structure gives valuable temporary accommodation. It is empty at the present time.

MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION.

Provision for maternity cases is made in part of he ground floor of one of the female blocks. There is accommodation for 6 beds with a labour room containing 2 beds. The accommodation is insufficient and maternity cases overflow into the adjacent female ward, which contains mental patients. The sanitary annexe in connection with the labour room is badly placed as entrance to it can only be obtained by passing through the maternity ward.

ISOLATION ACCOMMODATION.

Two isolation wings in the Hospital blocks provide 10 male and 10 female beds for isolation cases.

LUNACY ACCOMMODATION.

A detached two-storey building gives accommodation for 4 male and 4 female short-stay mental cases. It contains a padded room on each side. There is no accommodation for attendants and the building is not up to modern standards. The first floor is used as a store.

CHILDREN'S HOUSE.

Two houses, each of three floors, have been adapted for the Children's Home. They are adjacent to the Nurses' Home in the south – east corner of the grounds of the Institution, and provide accommodation for 40 children and staff. The Home is in good condition.

OUT-PATIENTS' DEPARTMENT.

None.

CASUALTY DEPARTMENT.

None.

OPERATION FACILITIES.

An operating theatre is provided in the central block of the Hospital. It is modern, and is well designed and equipped. The theatre is in almost daily use.

X-RAYS.

A modern X-Ray plant is installed in the Hospital.

ELECTRICAL AND SPECIAL TREATMENT.

There is a certain amount of apparatus for electrical treatment which might, with advantage, be increased.

BUILDINGS FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSE.

A permanent brick built chapel with ample accommodation is suitably placed in the grounds.

ACCOMMODATION FOR CASUALS.

The accommodation for casuals is situated at the entrance to the Institution. It is a large building and of good type. The walls are finished internally with brown glazed brick. The institution deals with a large number of casuals, there being an average number of 160 per week. Cells and an association ward are provided for men and open wards for females.

MORTUARY.

A mortuary is provided but it is small and requires to be modernised.

SERVICES.

POWER.

The arrangements for steam generation and hot water supply are very bad. In addition to a large Cochran boiler, near the House there are 16 other boilers situated at different points throughout the Institution. The boiler plant and systems connected therewith require detailed consideration and a modern central scheme installed.

The heating of the House is by means of open fires.

The Hospital block is centrally heated from two boilers and, in addition to central heating, there are also ward stoves. The dormitories of the House are not heated.

The casual block has also a self-contained heating system.

The heating systems throughout the Institution are inefficient and uneconomical, and this question should be considered along with that of the power house.

LIGHTING.

A portion of the old House is artificially lighted by gas. The lighting of the remainder of the Institution is by electricity, which is obtained from Epsom Urban District Council.

The electricity installation should be extended and substituted for gas.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is from the Epsom Urban District Council main.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of the temporary Hospital annexe, the sanitary accommodation is adequate. Several of the fittings are of the old type, especially in the House and infirm wards.

SANITATION.

The drains are connected to the public sewers of the Urban District Council. The drains appear to be in good working order, several parts of the old drainage having been recently re-laid. Detailed examination and tests should, however, be carried out in due course.

KITCHENS.

The kitchen is situated in the centre portion of the House, and serves both the House and the Hospital. There is also a bakery.

There is a large amount of condensation in the kitchen, and this matter should receive attention. Washing up is done in the yard of the kitchen block. This accommodation should be suitably enclosed.

The kitchen and cooking arrangements are otherwise fairly good and appear to be ample for the present needs.

The distance from the Hospital is considerable, and there are complaints that the food served is cold owing to the containers in which it is conveyed being inefficient. This matter should receive attention.

DINING FACILITIES.

A dining hall is provided near the kitchen. It is in excellent condition and adequate for the purpose.

STORES.

The stores of the Institution are adequate, but are scattered about the House and Casual blocks. A central store should be provided.

CONTRACTS FOR STORES.

Contracts for stores are obtained by tenders at stated periods.

LAUNDRY.

The laundry is driven by steam and electricity. It has been recently overhauled and is in good condition. It appears to be adequate for the work.

FIRE PROTECTION.

There are two water mains (3" and 2½"), and a number of external and internal hydrants for dealing with an outbreak of fire. From information obtained it would appear that there is insufficient pressure to reach to the upper stories.

Certain internal hydrants and a certain amount of fire fighting equipment are provided in the Institution. The equipment is not adequate and should be increased.

Fire escape stairs are provided, but additional ones are necessary in the male and female portions of the old House.

The staff receive periodical fire drill from the master of the Institution. There is no central fire alarm with direct communication with the public fire brigade, and this should be arranged.

TELEPHONES.

The Institution is connected to the public telephone system, and a system of internal telephones is in operation.

DISINFECTION.

The Institution is equipped with a steam disinfecting apparatus.

AMBULANCES.

The Dorking, Epsom and Sutton public ambulances are hired for the removal of patients, as required.

WORKSHOPS.

Maintenance workshops and also those for shoemaking, tailoring etc., are provided, and are adequate for the needs.

WEIGHBRIDGE.

There is a weighbridge provided at the entrance to the Institution.

FUTURE USE.

The Institution is situated in a district in which the population is rapidly increasing.

The Hospital is one of the principal centres in the district for dealing with surgical and other acute cases. It is always full. As in the other Institutions, a large number of acute sick beds are occupied by chronic sick cases.

It is therefore suggested that the Hospital should be used exclusively for acute sick; that part of the House be used for chronic sick; and that the remainder of the House be used for ordinary cases.

The question of "appropriation" of the Hospital will require consideration, together with the question of extending the Hospital at no distant date. Even now the Maternity Accommodation is inadequate.

WORKS NECESSARY.

In order to give effect to the policy just outlined, the following works are regarded as necessary:-

Provide new Hospital and Maternity blocks.

Provide a Casualty and Out-Patients' department.

Extend Nurses' Home.

Acquire land adjacent to the Nurses' Home.

Re-condition old Infirmary.

Modernise Mental block.

Provide Officer's quarters.

Extend kitchen block.

Provide central stores.

Provide new central boiler house and plant.

Re-model heating system and extend it throughout the Institution.

Provide additional sanitary accommodation to House and temporary annexe.

Abolish gas lighting and substitute electricity.

Internal plastering, decorating and minor repairs.

Re-construct Mortuary.

Provide separate entrances for Hospital and Casuals, and fence in Casuals' block.

Provide recreation facilities.