

THE NEW YORK CANCER HOSPITAL.

No one who visits the upper end of Eighth Avenue as high as One Hundred and Fifth Street can fail to be struck with the imposing appearance of the new building now in course of erection, of which an illustration is given on page 301. Its round towers suggest the French chateau, and there is nothing except its size to mark it as a charitable institution. But the passer-by who admires this building simply as an architectural success, or who, knowing its history, regards it as merely a product of the ostentatious charity of a few rich people, misses altogether its larger meaning. The princely gift of Mr. & Mrs. John J. Astor has received accessions from so many different sources that it is now impossible to regard the New York Cancer Hospital as in any sense an exclusive enterprise.

The corner-stone was laid last May, since which time the work has been pushed steadily forward under the direction of the architect, Mr. Charles C. Haight, already well known as one of the most successful American designers of public buildings. According to his present estimate, the hospital will be ready for occupation by January 1, 1886 at furthest.

The structure of brick and stone measures 130 by 95 feet, the entire lot having a frontage of 200 feet and a depth of 180 feet. The pavilion now building is intended for women only, but it is proposed to erect a similar one for men, and also a chapel.

There is no cellar proper, the foundations being laid in the natural rock. The present building occupies two sides of a parallelogram, and is furnished with three round towers, each of which is forty feet in diameter inside. The great advantage of this arrangement will be at once apparent; since three sides of each tower face externally, sunlight will be enjoyed by its inmates throughout the entire day.

The wards in the towers will contain eleven beds, each bed having an unusually large wall space and window-light -- greater than is possible by any other arrangement. The present institution will be the only one in this country containing the so-called "circular wards," a form of ward adopted with great success in a hospital in Antwerp. The towers will also contain small wards, and there will be sixteen rooms for private patients.

The system of heating and ventilation is believed to be nearly perfect. Fresh air is forced into the cellar from an air-shaft ten feet above the ground, by means of a fan, as in the Metropolitan Opera House, and rises to all parts of the building, the vitiated air being removed through a shaft in each ward.

In order effectually to eliminate every source of discomfort or annoyance, the kitchen is to be placed at the top of the house, each floor having its separate diningroom. The rooms for nurses, for the department of administration, etc., will be in the main building.

The hospital will be the only institution in this city or in the United States devoted to the treatment of cancer--a disease which, of all others, demands the best medical and surgical skill for its cure or relief.

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It has been a standing disgrace to our country that nowhere in the land has there been an institution devoted exclusively to the treatment of a disease terrible even in the midst of all the appliances for comfort that money can supply, but far more terrible when it falls to the lot of poverty. It is to meet this class of cases that the present hospital has been established, and it is the purpose of its founders to make it in every sense a broad and noble charity, exclusive neither in its management nor in the distribution of its aid. Its object will be to relieve those who are afflicted with the most frightful of ailments, to cure them, if possible, or, failing this, to alleviate their suffering by every means known to science. Though it owes its original foundation to the munificence of a single family, it is to the public that the New York Cancer Hospital must look for its support. It is to be hoped that the list of generous gifts will be swelled by further contributions from those who recognize and appreciate the spirit which actuated the originators of the enterprise. Those who wish to aid in this unique and much-needed charity may do so through the treasurer, Mr. Joseph W. Drexel, 103 Madison Ave. The management of the affairs of the hospital is in the hands of a board of trustees, of whom Mr. John E. Parsons is president.