



Melksham Cottage Hospital

A NEW HOSPITAL

“In these days, at intervals, we hear a certain amount about State-aided hospitals but, so far as country districts now are concerned, I am convinced that it is upon an undertaking such as this that we should rely’, said the Marquis of Bath when, before a large crowd, he opened Melksham’s new £45,000 hospital yesterday.

“I am a firm believer in the system of voluntary hospitals as they exist in this country”, he continued. “We have in this county of Wiltshire a number of distinctly successful local hospitals, and I trust they may long continue the good work they are doing by their own efforts and that they may receive the support which they so fully deserve from the public which they serve”.

Introducing Lord Bath, Major R F Fuller the president of the hospital, reminded those present that the new hospital was made possible by the generosity of the late Mrs Ludlow Bruges, who formerly lived at Seend, and under Whose will the Hospital Committee had received a bequest of £198,000.

The hospital, which has accommodation for 42 beds, covers an area of nearly half an acre and to enter the main entrance and pass through the corridor and enter every room entails a walk of over a mile. In its construction half a million bricks, 30,000 roof tiles, 3,200 panes of glass, 60 tons of steel, and 250 tons of timber were used by the contractors, Messrs F Rendell and Sons of Devizes. The architect was Sir George Oatley of Bristol.

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