

Rowe has decided upon a course of Ambulance, which will take place weekly at her studio, Logan Place, Earl's Court Road, W. The first lecture was given on Tuesday, at 4 p.m., by Mr. OWEN LANKESTER, M.R.C.S., and as he is a most popular teacher, the attendance was large. The Duchess of BEDFORD, who was herself but lately a most successful student, has arranged a course of "Homely Talks" for the tenantry at Woburn on "First Aid to the Injured and Sick," which are undertaken by Mrs. DICKSON, a very popular lecturer of the Society. We are requested to mention that special terms will be made for classes given by the new members of the staff who have just completed their training and are fresh to the work.

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THE Vestry of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, are making a new departure in appointing women as Sanitary Inspectors for their district, and, undoubtedly, it is one that will be followed by many other parishes. This is work particularly suited to women, who, by nature, have a keener insight into the details that should rightly come under sanitary inspection. It is gratifying testimony to the work of the National Health Society to notice that the Vestry, in making their appointments, announce that special consideration will be given to candidates holding the Society's certificate. This is such direct recognition of the position held by the N.H.S., that ladies, seeking similar employment, will do well to qualify by entering for the course of training through which it is necessary to pass before a certificate can be awarded.

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SOME three years since, when the County Councils were seeking teachers under the Technical Education Scheme for "Hygiene," "Sanitation," "Sick Nursing," "Ambulance," and "Domestic Economy," it was the National Health Society who were able to supply the need, and the efficiency and capability of their staff have called forth the most cordial congratulation from some of the leading medical men of to-day. By their efforts, the Society has been the means of conferring a two-fold benefit—first, in enabling women to qualify, at a very moderate cost, for work for which they are eminently fitted; and, secondly, by ensuring the public against ignorance and incompetency, by the thoroughness of the training on which they insist as indispensable to the holding of their Certificate.

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THE lecturing staff of the National Health Society includes, at present, 50 ladies who are in a position to undertake these responsible situations, and to fill them in a manner likely to give satisfaction to their employers and the public at large.

## Institution Histories.

### THE ITALIAN HOSPITAL, LONDON.

#### A CHAT WITH SISTER VINCENT.

No one who has passed through Queen Square with its observatory faculties in a state of attention can have failed to notice the words "Ospedale Italiano" across one of the fine old houses on the south side; beyond these words there is no outward visible sign of the steady and valuable work that has been carried on there since its establishment as a Hospital in 1884. It is unique among the great London Hospitals, by reason of fact that the staff of Nurses all belong to the Order of St. Vincent de Paul—an Order which in every quarter of the globe is synonymous to the poor and suffering with mercy, comfort, and hope.

"You would like to see round the Hospital," said Sister Vincent entering the Board room, her starched and immaculate cap with large side flaps, and sober coloured artistic gown, the regulation costume of the Religious Order, forming a fitting background to the peacefulness of her expression. We passed up the broad staircase with its dark highly polished wainscoting, the whole giving rise to the conviction that we were treading in the footsteps of many a bygone generation. Having reached the men's ward (in which there are eighteen beds) on the first floor, sister pointed to the old, and splendidly carved white marble mantelpiece as another proof that the building was not of mushroom growth. A communication has been made between the back and front room, for the sake of convenience, and to create a free current of air.

The Women's Ward with its 8 beds on the next floor contained fewer beds; but up and down, the men and women looked contented, and even bright; very different from our more stolid English patients, who, whatever they feel in reality, believe that they have a sort of inherent right to complain or look miserable, or at best to take as a matter of course any little sacrifice made, or pleasure designed for them. Downstairs again, we passed through the back garden, into the tiny dispensary, managed by the Sisters, then into the operating, and finally into the out-patients' waiting room, the latter cheerful, but with atmosphere tempered by the restrictive words "Silencio" and "Silence" on the walls.

Returning to the Board Room, we composed ourselves for a little conversation. "You see" Sister Vincent began, "we are somewhat hampered for want of more room, but we are hoping to be able to get the house next door, and then of turning the two premises into one; and I think, in a short time, this will be possible through the kindness of the founder of the Hospital, Comm. G. B. Ortelli."

"I suppose you only admit Italians."

"No, that is quite wrong," she replied, her face lighting up with animation, "we are so to speak, cosmopolitan; making neither distinction of creed or political opinion; but the Italians have the first chance. Their sufferings are often much accentuated when in the wards of a London Hospital, for they cannot always make themselves understood in English, and the food usually provided is of a kind which is utterly distasteful to their national palate. Only give them plenty of macaroni dressed in their own way, and you may throw your tasty English dishes down the sink or out of the window."

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