

the present time, and other courses of lectures of an educational character are being provided for.

The Executive Committee beg to report that it has passed the following resolution, which it recommends for adoption by the Council: "That the Corporation should undertake, as part of its work, the organisation of a lecturing staff for the public and for Nurses."

A final clause in the report referred to charges which had been made against a member of the Corporation. After the report had been read, strangers were requested to withdraw, and the inquiry into the charges was held *in camera*. After a lengthy inquiry, the remaining clauses of the report were adopted, and the Council adjourned to Wednesday, the 24th inst.

The second of the winter course of Sessional Lectures will be given on Thursday evening, January the 25th, at 3, Hanover Square, W., at eight o'clock, when Miss de Pledge, Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary, has kindly consented to speak on *The History and Progress of Nursing in Poor Law Infirmarys*. Admission free to all members of the Corporation; 1/- to others. As this lecture is likely to prove of great interest to many, it is much hoped that members will endeavour to make it widely known amongst those likely to be able to attend.

DAISY ROBINS,
Secretary and Registrar.

The Hostel of God.

FREE HOME FOR THE DYING,
58, The Chase, Clapham.

THIS Institution, which was opened in May, 1892, by St. James's Servants of the Poor, was founded to receive "such dying patients as cannot be benefited by Hospital treatment," in response to numerous urgent appeals which had been pressed on the Sisters. It was incurring a grave responsibility, and there was some hesitation and much consultation before commencing. At last statistics proved that the need really existed, and that such a Home would be a relief to many, not only the patients themselves, but the staff of the Hospitals from which they were perforce obliged to take their discharge, and who yet were sadly loath to send them back to the misery consequent on the utter lack of nursing which they must incur in their own homes. So the work was decided on. Clapham was chosen partly on account of its good soil and air, so advantageous to the workers; partly on its proximity to the Hospitals, and its capital train and tram service; and partly because it was hoped that the founder of a similar Institution in North London, which had now closed, and to whose gracious kindness in giving much most useful information the Matron was much indebted, would shortly be able to open her door again on a scale fully adequate for the work. Then came the inevitable difficulties—the lease of the

charming old house with its countless rooms, ground cupboards and offices was sternly refused by the lawyers just as the Sisters were putting in the modern kitchen range, which would have completed that department. The inevitable difficulty! followed by the struggle and the triumph. Thanks to the Rector of Clapham, temporary premises were found at a cheap rental, and the Sisters settled in to learn their experience. Very quaint it was too! Advice poured in from all sides—sympathetic—critical—hostile—all most useful. The result was, the following rules were agreed on:—

"Cases of mental weakness, paralysis and fits, or those of an infectious nature not received.

"No case received without a medical certificate.

"Forms can be obtained from the Sister-in-Charge."

The Home is free. It is, however, hoped that in all cases the funeral expenses will be borne by the friends of the patient.

"You should take paying Probationers," said an authority high in the Nursing world, "many would be thankful to come here and see how such cases are managed, and how far they can bear the daily strain of work." "There will not be much to be learnt from us, I think," replied the Mother, "our people will simply need nursing to the pitiful end." "You are wrong," replied the authority, "you will have some terrible cases; and, if you are wise, there will be much that will be valuable to learn and chronicle." "We shall see," replied the Mother. The result has proved that the authority was right and the Mother wrong.

The present premises contain only ten beds, and may be seen any afternoon, between two and four, or by Nurses at any time. There are no votes; no subscribers' letters needed for admission; granted there is a vacancy, you have but to apply for a form of admission, get it duly filled up, and if the doctor considers it medically eligible, the patient can be admitted on one of the two following days. There is no exclusion on account of creed. There is a resident Chaplain, licensed by the Bishop of Rochester, but if a man or woman is a Roman Catholic, provision is made for their being visited by their own Priest.

All the Sisters ask, is to be allowed to minister to the dying. They are told that they must never write *anything* without begging, for the charity is wholly unendowed; so they beg to be allowed to help any Hospital Sister or Nurse to provide for a suitable case from her wards; that the Nurse will send a suitable case, for when all the heart is given to the dying, there is no heart to send them away, or to bear the doctor's reproaches. And, lastly, that all interested in the work will come and see the Hostel. Bus from Victoria to Lavender Hill, 1½d.

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