

staff advocating the purchase of the entire site of Christ's Hospital, about five acres in extent, which the Governors of that institution have stated that they value at about £700,000.

The question of the acquisition of this site, or a part of it, has given rise to much controversy, and in view of its importance a lengthy memorandum bearing on the financial aspect of the proposal was circulated among the Governors by the Treasurer and Almoners.

Ultimately the following resolution was carried unanimously, with an addition appointing the Treasurer and four Almoners, and seven other Governors, to act on the Committee:—

"That a Special Committee be now appointed, and that they be instructed to make careful inquiry in regard to the resources and financial position of the Hospital, and also as to the alterations and additions and other improvements now urgently needed in regard to the accommodation afforded by the present site and buildings in order to place the Hospital in the best position to meet the requirements of the day as to the proper treatment of all patients; and having regard to such improvements and additions to which attention may be directed by the medical staff, and all others which are urgently needed in order to make the Hospital in every respect efficient for the treatment of patients and otherwise. And further, to make full inquiry as to all matters appertaining to the extension of the site of the Hospital, with the object of reporting to the Governors and affording them such information as will enable them to consider and decide as to the purchase of the site of Christ's Hospital or any part thereof, with any suggestions and plans they may think it expedient to submit on the whole matter referred to them, and that they may be authorized to require the services of all the Officers of the Hospital, and to confer with the Medical Staff and others, to enable them to report to the Governors fully and authoritatively, and to incur such necessary expenses as may be approved by the Treasurer, not exceeding a total of £300."

We learn that although there is some difference of opinion amongst the Governors as to the possibility of obtaining the enormous sum of money required to buy the whole site of Christ's Hospital, there are no two opinions as to the desirability of obtaining it—if it could be paid for without crippling the finances of the Hospital for half a century. Considering that a considerable section of the ground in question faces upon Newgate Street and could therefore be utilised for business premises in that important thoroughfare, it would seem that part at least of the purchase price could be at once recouped. But, of course, the cost of the freehold is by no means the end of the matter. New buildings with their equipment and the cost of their future maintenance would also be involved.

## The Nursing of Children's Diseases.

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(Concluded from page 332.)

### LECTURE XI.

#### THE SKIN AND ITS DISEASES.

*Scabies*, or itch, affects chiefly the parts between the fingers and toes, the wrists and between the thighs, but may extend to the other parts of the body and limbs, but never attacks the head and face. The chief symptom is intolerable itching, which gets worse when the child gets warm in bed. It is distinguished by a thin, wavy line in the skin, having a globule at one end caused by the itch insect, which burrows under the skin, laying its eggs as it goes, the globule at the end being the place where the insect may be found; on pricking this with a needle the animal may be extracted on its point, and easily seen with a lens of low power.

The irritation produced causes generally an exudation of vesicles and pustules, while scratching tends to disseminate these and to produce a kind of impetigo. The rash may be distinguished from others by finding the characteristic wavy line or burrow between the fingers, and also by the irregular character of the lesions. The disease requires a suitable "nidus," viz., a dirty skin, and also a certain length of contact with the skin, and so, though highly infectious amongst dirty people, there is not the least danger of a nurse catching it when attending to a patient suffering from it.

The treatment is simple and effectual; it is necessary in all cases to open up the burrows; to do this the patient should be well soaked in hot water for twenty minutes, then thoroughly soaped by rubbing in soft soap, and then scrubbed with a hard bristle brush; then the parasiticide must be firmly rubbed in over the affected parts, and the child should sleep with the application on all night, having an ordinary soap and water bath in the morning, and clean clothing. The patient's infected clothing should be thoroughly baked in the oven to destroy any insects on or adhering to them. The ointments used are, as a rule, sulphur, or naphthol, or storax, all three of which are efficacious. The treatment may be carried out for a second night,

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