

grant certain lands in Kent and Hertfordshire, and a new charter, which specially enjoined upon the members of the community the duty of visiting the sick. Many other Queen Consorts were benefactors of the hospital, and it is said to have been owing to the intercession of Anne Boleyn that it escaped suppression under Henry VIII. It was again threatened with extinction during the reign of her daughter, who, however, intervened to prevent this catastrophe. Fresh abuses grew up, and in 1693 Lord Chancellor Somers, in consequence of many heavy complaints made against the Master, reformed the constitution, and laid the foundation of a charity school, which began work in 1705.

The old buildings, which stood near the Tower, were bought up when St. Katharine's Docks were made, and in 1827 the institution was removed to the grey-stone edifice it at present occupies on the eastern side of Regent's Park.

The constitution, though resettled in July, 1878, remains antiquated and anomalous; the community consists of a Master, who receives £2,000 a year, three resident Brothers (£300 a year each), three resident Sisters (£200 a year each), three Extern Sisters, ten Nurses, ten Bedeswomen, and ten Bedesmen. The only members who carry out the early injunction to visit the sick, are the ten St. Katharine's Nurses, who receive £50 a year each; a charity school is supported, but the great bulk of the revenues of the hospital, which cannot amount to less than £10,000 a year, is expended in paying the salaries of officials, who, so far as the general public know, do absolutely no useful work. It is clear that if "The Royal Hospital of St. Katharine, in the Regent's Park, in the County of Middlesex," is to be converted into an institution for "promoting the education and maintenance of nurses for the sick poor in their own homes," in accordance with the Queen's wish expressed last January, its constitution will have to be once more revised. The besom of reform appears to have been swept through it about every other century since it was founded for the repose of the souls of Matilda's children; and if it is now vigorously applied once more, Great Britain may be endowed with an institution adapted to meet one of the most pressing needs of the nineteenth century. The Queen is not only the patroness, but the governor of the charity, and it is within her power to sanction a scheme, which may lead to the gradual disappearance of sinecure officials, and of a charity school which is but little needed. In their place we may hope to see a great central institution, with branches in all the principal towns of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, providing Trained Nurses, whose duty it will be to help in nursing the sick in their own homes.—*British Medical Journal*.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

THE Queen has appointed a provisional committee for the purpose of organising a scheme for establishing, with part of the Women's Jubilee Fund, a system of Nursing the sick poor, in connection with St. Katharine's Hospital. The committee held its first meeting at that place on the 26th ult. The Duke of Westminster, Sir Rutherford Alcock, and Sir James Paget, who have already given much time and consideration to the matter, will still continue to control and help to elaborate the scheme. It is stated that Mr. Rathbone, M.P., has promised his assistance to the committee. It may not be generally known that he has already modelled a Nurse Training Institute, in Liverpool, at a private expenditure of £20,000.

THE Dowager Empress Victoria, of Germany, lately received a deputation of the Berlin Municipal authorities, who delivered to her an address of sympathy. Herr von Forckenbeck gave expression to the deep sorrow and sympathy of the city of Berlin. Her Majesty replied that if there could be any alleviation of her sorrow, it would be in the knowledge of the universal regret manifested for her beloved husband. She expressed her resolve, if the necessary strength should be granted her, to continue to give her co-operation in all efforts for humanitarian objects. Her Majesty then referred to the keen interest which her late consort and herself had always felt, in Berlin. "Two Royal Lives"—a charming book—gives a graphic account of how this interest in everything for the welfare of their subjects was the guiding principle of the lives of this well-beloved couple.

THE Princess Christian, who is rapidly becoming known amongst Nurses as "our Princess," has consented to patronise a military tournament to be held by the A. Battery, Third Brigade Royal Artillery, in the grounds of the High Sheriff of Bristol, on the 14th inst. The proceeds are to be given in aid of Lady Roberts' Homes in the Hills for English Nurses in India. Those who have lately parted with dear daughters and sisters to work in the military hospitals of our great Eastern Empire, will have doubtless heard from them how necessary a change to the hills will be, if they are to preserve health and strength to continue their labours in the plains.

THE Belgrave Hospital for Children, 79, Gloucester-road, Pimlico, is situated in a very poor neighbourhood, and is busily engaged in supplying medical treatment and good nursing to numbers of sick children. The Hon. Mrs. N. le Poer Trench has lately shown her interest in the hospital by generously bestowing upon it three eminently prac-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)