

The Bishop of St. Asaph has become a vice-president of the Hostel of St. Luke (the Clergy Nursing Home, Nottingham Place). The house was closed lately for cleaning, painting, and sanitary work, much of the cost of which was provided by Adeline Duchess of Bedford, a lady whom we have heard described as a "real Duchess—not the spurious mercantile commodity."

The Duchess of Bedford, on Saturday afternoon, visited Watford, where she opened a new wing added to the district hospital to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward VII.

A Nurses' Home has been opened in connection with the Borough Hospital, Birkenhead. For the furnishing and decorating of the beautiful dining-hall and day-room the Committee are indebted to Mrs. William Laird, and to the Corporation.

For refractory conduct in opposition to the order of the Luton Workhouse matron that she should have a bath, an inmate named Mary Brown has been sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment. She was being forcibly undressed and was almost ready for immersion when she broke away, and reaching a top storey got out of a window, and was hanging by her hands from its sill when she was reached.

A new wing has been opened at the Tavistock Cottage Hospital. It has been built out of invested funds of the institution, and will receive the benefit of the bequest under the will of the late Mr. J. H. Gill, of Bickham. It is to be known as the Gill Wing, and it will provide for an additional ten beds, making twenty-five in all. The new premises are situate at the eastern end of the main building, and stand on hospital land given by the Duke of Bedford. The wing also includes laundry, drying chamber, and nurses' quarters.

The International Peace Congress held at Rouen, after a discussion on affairs in Macedonia, adopted a resolution appealing to civilised nations, and especially to the signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, to put an end without delay to "the extermination of the Macedonian population," and pledging the members of the Congress to do everything in their power to obtain a hearing for this appeal from the Powers. Another resolution was adopted pointing out that the *régime* established by the Treaty of San Stefano was based on the right of peoples to dispose of themselves in freedom.

On Monday the International Seamen's Hospital which has been founded principally through the initiative of Lady Layard, supported by the generosity of leading members of the British and foreign communities, was opened at Venice. The Prefect of Venice and the British, German, Austrian, and Swedish Consuls attended the ceremony. Mr. Horatio Brown, President of the Hospital Committee, made a speech in which he explained that the main object of the institution was to enable sick seamen to be attended by persons speaking their own language, a boon for which many seamen will no doubt be grateful.

The Oxo Company are offering enlargements of any photograph free of charge, in exchange for coupons from Oxo bottles. This is a splendid opportunity for any who wish to have an enlarged photograph of themselves, their friends, or of any other subject specially dear to them. We understand that the enlargements are gems of photographic art, and will be executed by one of the leading manufacturing photographers in the country.

The National Physique.

Sir John Gorst, M.P., speaking at Stockport on the occasion of the distribution of prizes to successful students of the Stockport Technical School, drew attention to the urgent need for education authorities to pay attention to the hygiene of the children in the elementary schools. "There could be no more important subject for a boy or girl. He did not mean that they should answer questions about hygiene, but that they should practise it in their daily life. The education authority had, in the elementary school, a rare chance of testing the general health of a town. No better test could be found than the health of the children gathered together every day. If they had, as in Continental towns, a periodical examination of the children by a medical officer, they would see whether the children were growing up into a healthy and strong race.

A commission appointed in Edinburgh to inquire into the subject of physical drill came to the wise conclusion that they could not give any very satisfactory recommendations about physical drill until they knew something about the physique of the children by whom that drill was to be applied. They therefore had a test examination made of the children in the schools of Edinburgh by a competent medical authority. There were four groups of schools, one in the very best part of that city. The result was perfectly appalling. It was one of the most shocking returns he ever read in his life, for out of these children, some belonging to quite the better class, there were 70 odd per cent. actually diseased and 35 per cent. were seriously diseased. There was a large percentage of children with defects of sight and hearing, and 30 per cent. were suffering from insufficient nutrition—in other words, were half-starved. In the Canongate Schools this starvation amounted to 38 per cent. The children most diseased were those living in the most insanitary surroundings. It might be considered as quite established that if you put a child to live where the sanitary conditions were ineffective not only did the child grow up diseased but perfectly incapable of profiting by instruction. The moral he wished to draw was that perhaps the first thing that ought to be done by the new authorities was to examine the children for whom they had now become responsible. Very happily one of the effects of the Education Act of last year was that the education authority was now also the sanitary authority and that it could be brought to a consciousness of its duty."

One of the best steps taken of recent years in connection with the health of children has been the introduction of the visiting nurse to the elementary schools. If medical practitioners from whom the nurses could take their directions were also appointed, as the lecturer suggested, the health of the coming generation should be materially raised.

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