

felt obliged, however, to proceed with the erection of a ward for whooping-cough, which was terribly prevalent in the neighbourhood, and had an alarming mortality.

They were making arrangements for a large entertainment by which they hoped to raise funds. It is, indeed, sad that work so holy as relieving the manifold sufferings of innocent children cannot claim the instinctive support of the wealthy in this city of cities—a veritable Golconda as it is.

The terrible increase of rates in the metropolis is becoming an almost unbearable burden on hospital finances. Mr. Drewett, the secretary of the Tottenham Hospital, had a sad tale to unfold when summoned last week for non-payment of the district and poor rates, amounting to £110 8s. 4d. Until recently the hospital was rated at the sum of £83.

When the new Jewish Home and Hospital for Jewish Incurables in the same locality was built the overseers regarded that as a different kind of institution, and, therefore, assessed it in the ordinary way at £1,000 or £1,100. The Jewish authorities appealed, and they made a strong point of the fact that the Tottenham Hospital was rated at only £83. The consequence was that the overseers felt compelled to increase the figure to £700. An appeal was made by Tottenham Hospital, and the Assessment Committee reduced the amount to £500, on which sum the rate was now due. Mr. Drewett, the secretary of the hospital, said that they were totally unable to pay the money, as their account was at present overdrawn to the extent of £2,000. The Chairman said the Bench had to deal with the matter from a legal aspect, and their only course was to order that the money be paid within fourteen days.

Viscount Portman, the president of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, took the chair at a meeting held at his house, 22, Portman Square, on behalf of the hospital. In consequence of the great increase in the work of the charity it has been decided to enlarge the nurses' home at a cost of £2,000.

The Bishop of Kensington moved a resolution commending to public support the efforts that were being made to provide the further increased accommodation necessary for patients and nurses, and to obtain the additional funds needed for maintenance. In doing so he said that he had recently paid a visit to the hospital, and had been much struck by the excellence and thoroughness of the arrangements for the care and treatment of the patients, by the high tone which pervaded the hospital, and the tenderness shown to the patients.

Mr. H. A. Harben moved: "That the work in which the Midwifery Training-School has been engaged for many years past constitutes a high claim to the support of the public." Over 100 midwives, he said, were now trained every year at the hospital, as well as 130 monthly nurses. Proposals had recently been made for establishing another training-school for midwives, and he could not help feeling it would be a pity if the result of this should be the diversion of subscriptions from the older institutions

Queen Charlotte's Hospital had been engaged in the training of midwives for over fifty years; great experience in the work had been obtained, and it was capable of indefinite development if only the necessary funds were forthcoming. Dr. Rivers Pollock seconded the motion, which was carried.

Four houses in Bolsover Street, W., through the generosity of Lord Howard de Walden, have been secured on which to build a new conjoint Orthopædic Hospital; the National Orthopædic and the Royal Orthopædic having wisely arranged to amalgamate.

The foundation-stone of a new building at the Chalfont Epileptic Colony to be used for administrative purposes was last week laid by Sir William Broadbent. The cost of the much-needed addition to the Colony has been for the greater part borne by Mr. Passmore Edwards, who has given £3,000 towards the £4,800 required. The work of the Colony, Sir William said, was well known. Their object was to remove the disadvantages from which epileptics suffered, as objects cut off from the enjoyments of life. There they had cheerful abodes to enable them for the first time to cultivate a real life among people of their own age, and where they could feel that they were some good in the world. He was glad to say that as a consequence of the change in legislation there would be before long two houses in the Colony with twenty-four children in each, which would be a beginning of the work among children.

The new infirmary at Camberwell, which is really an extension of the old establishment, also shortly to be modernised, was opened last week by Mr. Alfred Foster, chairman of the Camberwell Board of Guardians.

Dr. Partridge, chairman of the Infirmary Visiting Committee, addressed the large company present, and gave a brief account of the successive steps which had been taken to enlarge the old infirmary. The new buildings have been erected at the cost of £200,000, exclusive of fittings, and comprise twenty-three separate buildings. Accommodation is provided for 800 patients, a resident staff of five doctors, and about 160 officials, nurses, and servants. The buildings are constructed of fire-resisting material, special provision being also made for escape in case of fire. They are electrically lighted, and contain every requisite indispensable in a modern hospital. As a subsequent inspection proved, the new infirmary is a model hospital. It contains separate men's, women's, and children's pavilions, consumptive ward for open-air treatment, a fully-equipped operating theatre, an electric treatment room, electric lifts, laundry motors, electric ventilation, and a heating scheme of the architect's design. The kitchen block is one of special interest, and contains every modern appliance. The whole of the infirmary is supplied from this kitchen, its feeding capacity being up to 1,000 persons a day.

When the new regulations for the further classification and teaching of male prisoners come into force, it is to be hoped something will be done also on these lines for female prisoners. At present there are 800 women herded together at Holloway, and, according to the Prison Commissioners' Report for 1902 over 70 per cent. of the women discharged returned to prison again.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)