

## The Hospital World.

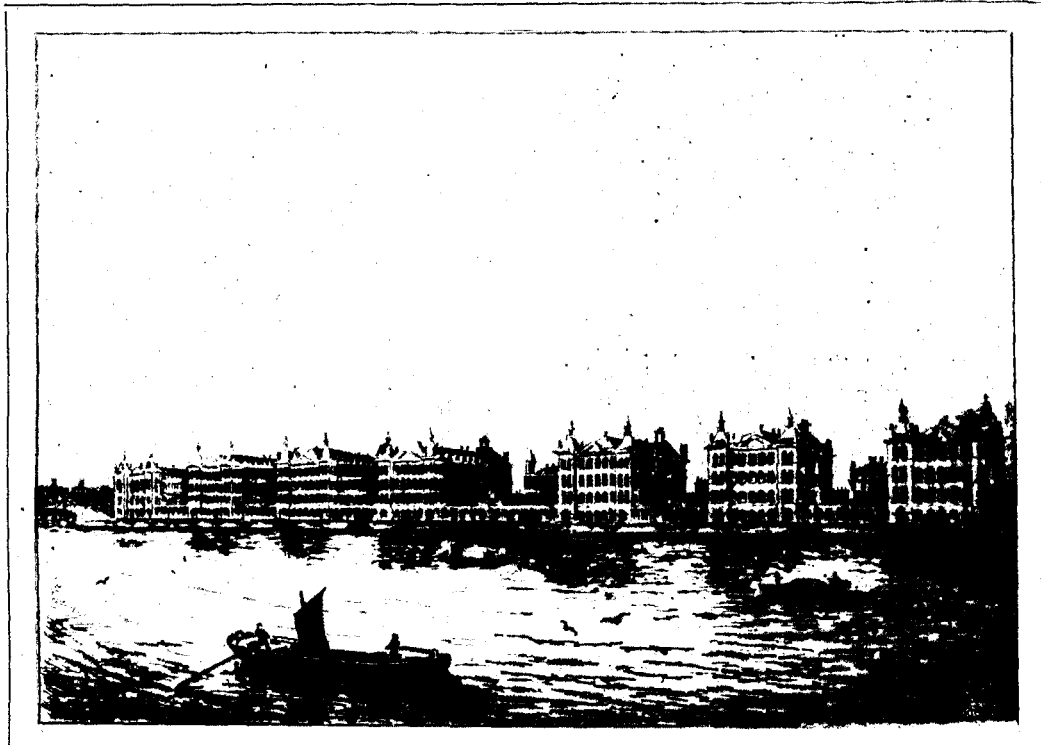
### ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL.

St. Thomas' Hospital, which is of permanent interest to nurses as the hospital chosen by Miss Nightingale as the training ground of the Nightingale probationers and the establishment of the Nightingale Home, has an interesting history. The original building, dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, stood for six centuries on the site now occupied by London Bridge Station, where it provided board and lodging for the night, and treatment and care in the event of illness, for poor pilgrims on their way to Canterbury. Dr. F. M. Sandwith in a Gresham

incorporated by charter the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City in succession as perpetual governors of the Royal Hospitals, and St. Thomas was re-named, this time its dedication being to St. Thomas the Apostle, and the King liberally endowed it.

The hospital was furnished by benevolent citizens, their gifts including straw mattresses, feather beds, sheets, blankets, linen, and clothes for the inmates who were at that time chiefly wounded soldiers home from the wars in France, as well as the halt, the blind, and the maimed.

Eligibility for the office of governor was afterwards extended to men of rank and respecta-



ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL, LONDON.

lecture, showed that its revenues were seized by Henry VIII. in 1538, at which date it made up forty beds, and its staff consisted of a Master and Brethren and three lay Sisters.

A few years later the citizens of London purchased from the Crown some of its landed estates, and in 1551 they purchased from Edward VI. the manor of Southwark, including the site of the hospital, which was then enlarged to accommodate 300 beds, and re-opened a year later as "the King's Hospital." The wards were named Isaac, Jacob, Job, Tobiah, Noah, Jonah, King, Abraham, Lazarus, and Susannah. Just before his death Edward VI.

bility outside the City of London. On election, the governors were expected to give a liberal donation, but it was understood that money alone would not procure a Governor's staff, which was dependent on recommendations of public virtue.

According to Mr. Benjamin Golding, the governors possessed the power of inflicting punishments, and a whipping-post and stocks were erected at the hospital. Immoral women, on their discharge cured, were also privately whipped and admonished to live a different life. One imagines it must have required some courage to enter the hospital for treatment in those days.

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