

allotted to baths of various kinds. King's College Hospital will, indeed, possess the most complete medical bathing establishment in London.

It is hoped to make the lives of the patients much brighter and happier in their spacious new surroundings—as gardens and open spaces will surround the new hospital. No new hospital should be built without so much open ground being compulsorily provided per bed. Every time we look at the lordly pile of St. Thomas' Hospital we realise the wisdom (condemned, of course, as wicked extravagance at the time it was built) of the choice of a site and the amount of ground which surrounds that magnificent institution. The expeditious recoveries—owed to the glorious breezes of old Father Thames—are incalculable.

We are asked by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Hotchkin, to draw attention to the Home for Gentlewomen, Woodhall Spa. Although hospitals for the working classes are numerous there are very few for the use of poor gentlewomen, and the object of this Home is to provide, at a small cost, rest and medical advice for a class of ladies who would otherwise be unable to take the mineral water treatment at Woodhall Spa, which is so useful in many cases of rheumatism, neuritis, skin diseases, and the diseases of women. Those provided with a subscribers' letter are admitted for four weeks at 15s. per week, which includes all expenses, but mineral baths and laundry, and four physicians, any of whom may be consulted, kindly give their services free of charge. Each patient has a separate room.

The Home is kept open all the year round, and when the rooms are not wanted for ladies taking the Spa water treatment, those desiring rest and change only can be received. It is now desired to raise funds to build a larger house, and an appeal with this object has the support of Mrs. Alec Tweedie and other well-known ladies and gentlemen.

### The Irish Nurses' Association.

On Tuesday, the 21st ult., Dr. Stoney gave a most instructive lecture on "Deformities" to the members of the Irish Nurses' Association at their rooms, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, at which Miss Despard presided. This subject being an interesting one for the members of the Massage Branch, nearly all were present.

Dr. Stoney confined his lecture to Talipes, and brought plaster casts illustrating the different forms of deformity which may occur in both children and adults, and he also spoke of the value of manipulation, massage or electricity in the separate cases. The lecturer was followed with the keenest attention, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him at the close.

### Central Poor Law Conference.

On the second day of the Central Poor Law Conference, in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, on Wednesday, February 22nd, the discussion on Mr. Beaumont's paper on "Reform from Within," read on the previous day, and which we reported last week, occupied the morning.

Mr. Bentham, a member of the Poor Law Commission, remarked that so much had been said against the Report of the Royal Commission that it was right something should be mentioned to its credit. It was intended to give Boards of Guardians an opportunity to express their opinions and to put down that which was unworkable and unfavourable to particular unions.

A great amount of specialisation was required. This could not be carried out in the smaller unions, but the Local Government Board might insist on a union sending its special cases to another, where they could have the necessary accommodation.

In the agricultural districts, where classification is difficult, the healthy child should never be kept in the workhouse. In some even of our large workhouses the children are admitted and are allowed to mix with the adult inmates.

Mr. Manton, of Birmingham, said he considered that out-relief was the primary duty of the Poor Law, and that it was sheer madness to attempt to force a family into the House.

The Rev. W. E. Taylor, of St. Albans, not only strongly upheld the view that children should be removed entirely from the workhouse, but said he would go further and have them removed from Poor Law Administration. He would insist on preventive rather than remedial work. "Save a man from becoming a pauper. It was a fine thing to prevent a man falling into the vortex."

Mr. Holt, of Ingleby, considered that the introduction of ladies into Boards of Guardians was of the greatest value, and that their assistance and efficiency could not be over-estimated.

Miss Henry, Guardian, Thatcham, made the interesting statement that from careful investigation of the tramps in her Union 70 per cent. were found to have been soldiers, there was not one from the Royal Navy. The system of way tickets worked well in her opinion.

Mr. Stone, Chairman, Canterbury Board of Guardians, urged the pushing forward of reform work. He thought that the outcry for the removal of the children was equally an argument for raising the tone of the Workhouse. More classification was necessary to separate the desirable from the undesirable, and it was in desperate earnestness that he said the most terrible spectacle, to his mind, was the women who had led well ordered, decent lives, and had preserved their moral character, being forced through poverty and no fault of their own, to associate with women of bad character. He considered this a great reflection on Poor Law management.

After the interval for luncheon, a paper was read by Sir William Chance, Bart. (Chairman of the Central Committee of Poor Law Conferences), on the "Problem of the Feeble-Minded." He

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