

built, and they have also given Mr. Eliot Howard every opportunity of inspecting the hospital.

The lady who undertakes the work of organization will require experience, firmness, tact, and patience. She will have the support of the very efficient and energetic medical staff. An opportunity which should not be missed is thus offered England to render Italy a great service in the most acceptable form. There are no doubt difficulties, but what nurse worth her salt withholds her help for so poor a reason?

Full information can be obtained from the Rev. H. H. Pullen, Casa Alberto, Spezia, Italy, and preliminary inquiries may be addressed to Mr. Eliot Howard, who will gladly give all information in his power.

THE DANGER OF DERMATITIS.

We regret to learn that the Sister in the X-ray department at the Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary has contracted dermatitis. It was stated at a meeting of the Workhouse Committee that safety gloves are provided for the use of the nurses employed in this department, but that the Sister had not always worn them. On the advice of an X-ray expert, it was decided to employ additional safeguards, and also to insist on gloves being worn. There is no question that this precaution should invariably be taken; the forces dealt with are so potent that constant care is needed.

POOR LAW REFORM.

In connection with the draft Order now under the consideration of a Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board, we have refrained from referring to this in detail, because it is still a confidential document, although it has been submitted to certain Associations concerned in Poor Law work for suggestions. It has not as yet been submitted to the President of the Local Government Board for his consideration.

A FORFEITED HOLIDAY.

Nurses will do well to note the following case, in which a Nurse Grant, who had been employed by the Railway Institute Nursing Association, and after seventeen months' work, without a holiday, received a month's notice, terminating her engagement, sued the Association for a month's salary, compensation for holiday due to her, at the Holyhead County Court. Judge Moss, delivering judgment, said that morally she was entitled to the amount claimed, but she had forfeited her legal claim by not going on holiday, and entered judgment for the defendants.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

THE MILLER GENERAL HOSPITAL, S.E.

One has only to study a map showing the distribution of London hospitals north and south of the river to be struck by the great disproportion in the hospital accommodation for the poor of South London. True, St. Thomas' and Guy's Hospitals are south, but so close to the river that they scarcely serve the great population, consisting mainly of the working classes, in the southern districts, and, indeed, so far as Greenwich, Deptford, Woolwich, and Lewisham are concerned, the Miller Hospital, Greenwich, so named after Canon Miller, founder of Hospital Sunday, is the only one in a wide area at the service of the sick, and this has only had 25 beds, to meet the demands upon it of a population of over 510,000—a provision which it will be realized is totally inadequate.

Now, however, a new wing has been added, which will bring the number of beds available up to 76 if the Committee of Management receives sufficient financial support to justify it in opening them, and it is to be hoped this will quickly be received.

It is fortunate at the present time in having secured the powerful interest and active assistance of Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, who is not only opening the new wing on November 15th, but is making a public appeal for subscriptions to be sent to the hospital, which she will herself acknowledge.

To the last the new wing has been in the hands of workpeople, but energy on the part of the courteous Secretary, Mr. Harry A. Bone, and the Matron, Miss E. Mussett, have accomplished wonders to make things spick and span for the 15th inst. Already two of the large wards are occupied by patients, one for men and one for women, each ward receiving both medical and surgical cases. One for children is a great need, as it is good neither for women nor children that both should be nursed in the same wards. In planning the wards and their annexes the sensible arrangement has been adopted of placing the bathroom off the entrance lobby, instead of at the further end of the ward. A small ward for one patient also opens into this lobby, as well as the ward kitchen and linen-room. There is no Sister's room, however, and it appears that the latest fashion in hospital planning is not to include such accommodation. No doubt, in a short time, the pendulum will swing again in the other direction; meanwhile, if a Sister desires to speak to the visiting physician or

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)