

NURSING ECHOES.

GENERAL NEWS.

An important development with regard to the future of St. Katherine's Hospital was reported last week to the London County Council. The new rules have been prepared by the Lord Chancellor (Lord Haldane) under an authority given by Queen Alexandra. The primary object of these rules is to restore to the poor of the East of London, the benefits of the foundation, by the establishment near to the site of the ancient foundation, of a college for the provision of a body of qualified resident women health-workers, and the training for such work of women students.

The London County Council has had the matter under consideration for some time, as for many years past the endowments have not been so usefully employed as they might have been. The Queens Consort of England have unique rights over this ancient foundation, as it goes back to 1148, when Matilda, Consort of Stephen, founded it in memory of her son Baldwin and her daughter Matilda.

At the half-yearly court of the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, at which Mr. H. W. Mason presided, Lady Farren and Miss Coucher, who have recently, as Red Cross workers, been gaining some practical experience in the out-patient department of the hospital, gave an account of their experiences, together with their opinion of the work of the department in general, for which, on the motion of Mr. F. Messent, who enlarged upon the exceptional nature of their opportunities, they were accorded a hearty vote of thanks. If Boards of Governors are to invite and receive criticisms of the work of the hospital from Red Cross workers who have had a few weeks' insight into the out-patient department, we fear the position of experienced officers will become quite untenable.

LEAGUE NEWS.

On Saturday, January 31st, a meeting of the Nurses' League C.L.S.A., Hendon Branch, was held in the Nurses' Home. The visitors, numbering over forty, were entertained to tea by the Matron, Miss Elma Smith, and Sisters in the nurses' sitting-room, which was prettily decorated for the occasion. At 5 p.m. a most interesting lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, was given by Mr. Williams. The subject, "Vanishing London," was introduced by a striking comparison between the town founded by St. Augustine in 55 B.C. and London as it is to-day. The lecturer traced the rise of the

city from the building of the original St. Paul's Cathedral to the end of the Tudor period, which gave one a vivid idea of the manner of living, sport, advance of Christianity, and various methods of punishments inflicted on our prisoners of those days. In a lecture of so varied a character it seems almost impossible to choose any particular part of the subject for description, but a comment on the architecture of the period as existing in St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey is necessary in passing. A subject such as this tends to awaken an interest in the ancient history of a city so famous as London, and the members of the League and friends are very much indebted to Mr. Williams for his able and instructive address.

POOR LAW NURSING.

How speedily the new Poor Law Institutions Nursing Order is being ignored. The Local Government Board have permitted the Hunslet Board of Guardians to depart from the requirements of Article 5 (1) (b) in respect of candidates for the office of Superintendent Nurse, which provides that "A person shall not be appointed to the office of Superintendent Nurse unless she holds a certificate of having undergone for three years at least a course of instruction in the medical and surgical wards of a hospital or infirmary being a training school for nurses and maintaining a resident physician and house surgeon, and is also a midwife under the Midwives Act, 1902."

As this standard is absolutely necessary for the comfort and well-being of the sick inmates, it is greatly to be deplored that the Local Government Board should trifle with it.

At the inquest on a four-months-old baby girl held at the North Evington Infirmary, near Leicester, it transpired from the evidence of the night nurse that during her twelve hours' duty she had charge of 30 patients, 14 of whom were babies under the age of three years. The ward consisted of three rooms, one of which was the nursery, and although she was not long absent from the nursery, she found the child dead at 2.20 a.m.

Dr. A. G. Fergus, junior lady medical officer, considered that more nurses were necessary. No notice had been taken of her recommendations to this effect. The nursery should never be left, and she considered that if there had been a nurse in the ward she would have discovered that the child had a fit in time to call the doctor promptly, and she might have saved its life. Death was due to convulsions from its digestive condition.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)