

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,452

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 1916.

Vol. LVI

EDITORIAL.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ST. KATHARINE

St. Katharine's Hospital has had a varied and chequered career since the time when it was founded in 1128 by Queen Matilda as a memorial to her two children. From that day to this it has always been under the patronage of the Queens of England, and in the reign of Edward III Queen Philippa obtained for it a Royal Charter, when its duties were extended, and in addition to the care of the sick within its walls it became the duty of the ladies of noble birth who served in it to visit and nurse the sick poor in their own homes. It was this fact which led for a time to its removal from the East End to the neighbourhood of Regent's Park, as the headquarters of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, but, as our readers are aware, it is now once more located near the site of its original foundation, and its scope, by the desire of Queen Alexandra has been once again extended. A home has been found for it in Poplar, in the thickly populated area between the Bow Road and the East India Dock Road, and here, as the Royal College of St. Katharine, under the direction of Miss Macqueen, it undertakes the infant care work of the borough under the maternity scheme approved by the Local Government Board, thus coming into line with modern ideals that nursing has its definite duties in regard to the prevention of disease, and in helping to raise the general standard of national health. So successful has the work of the College been that the staff of health visitors employed in this branch of work is to be increased from six to nine, and two extra houses adjacent to the premises at Bromley Hall have been secured.

Recently a resolution was unanimously adopted by the Poplar Borough Council expressing hearty appreciation of the work

done by the Royal College of St. Katharine which Queen Alexandra, the Patron, has caused to be established in the Borough, and gratitude to Her Majesty for the unflagging interest she has always taken in measures designed for the improvement of the public health, of which interest St. Katharine's College affords a noteworthy illustration.

At a meeting of the Borough Council held on January 20th, a letter was read from Colonel Streatfeild, Private Secretary to Queen Alexandra, conveying to the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Poplar Her Majesty's sincere thanks for the resolution passed by the Council recording their appreciation of the services rendered to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and their children by the College of St. Katharine's within the borough, in which he said:—

Her Majesty, as Patron of the College, rejoices to know that its work during the past year, under the able management of the principal, Miss Macqueen, has had such excellent results, and Her Majesty fully recognises the unflagging energy and zeal which Miss Macqueen and her staff of health visitors have displayed in the performance of their duties. Queen Alexandra feels, however, that the success which has been achieved by the College of St. Katharine's could never have been perfected without the co-operation and support which has been granted to it by the local authorities. Colonel Streatfeild further added:—

Her Majesty's keen interest in all movements which have for their object the improvement of public health, especially as regards women and children, is universally known, and she trusts that with your Council's help and advice the all-important and national work which has been started under such favourable auspices will grow and prosper.

We hope there is a happy and healthy future before the babies of Poplar.

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