

place in the plans for an infirmary department of 230 beds, this is not a difficulty which will give rise to much sympathy, while it calls loudly for a remedy.

#### WORKHOUSE NURSING IN SOME NORTHERN COUNTIES.

THROUGH the courtesy of some of our correspondents we have received a tabulated statement of the number of nurses employed in the care of the sick throughout the district inspected by Mr. Jenner-Fust; indeed, the return is due to that gentleman's enterprise, and it forms a most valuable table of reference, exhibiting the present condition of this important branch of Poor law work in the county of Lancashire, part of Cumberland, Westmorland, and two unions in the West Riding.

We are struck by the wide divergence in the size of the infirmaries, the largest containing 1,401 and the smallest 3 patients, with the discrepancies in the staff variously engaged in the nursing of these inmates, especially at night, and with the meagre amount of trained supervision over the nurses employed. The total number of infirmaries tabulated is 52; of these only 26 contained less than 50 patients at the time the return was made; the proportion of patients per nurse varies from 1 to 44 to 1 to 8; in 29 there was no night nurse, one of these infirmaries having 87 patients left without a trained attendant at night; in 12 only is there a superintendent or head nurse, in 1 infirmary a staff of 8 nurses working without a trained head; at night 6 superintendents are returned, and a staff of 7 in one infirmary is on duty at night without a superintendent. With regard to pauper nursing, 20 are stated to have no pauper nursing. These figures, so far, refer to the sick, exclusive of the imbeciles and epileptics. The total number of this class is 2,699, 18 infirmaries having no imbeciles or epileptics; 8 are returned as having no paid attendants; in one 33 patients are left to look after themselves; 36 infirmaries return no paid attendant at night; the highest number to one attendant is 86, and the lowest 10.

This brief analysis amply proves the want of uniformity in the administration of the Poor Law in its care of the sick.

#### TREATMENT OF EPILEPTICS IN BELFAST WORKHOUSE.

IT appears from the evidence given before a coroner's jury that a man was admitted to the infirmary suffering from fits, and that he was placed in the epileptic ward, which forms part of the lunatics' department; whilst there he died. The question put before the jury did not turn so much upon the reason of his death as upon whether the medical man was justified in placing him in the lunacy department. We see that an official inquiry is to be held; but this furnishes another instance of the ignorance so often shown by guardians as to the provision made for the treatment of the paupers under their charge. A medical officer is often forced to place his epileptic patients in the insane wards for their safer custody, because the amount of nursing provided for the lunatics is markedly in excess of that found in the wards of the sick. This reason may have influenced Dr. Beattie in this instance.

#### THE KEIGHLEY WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY.

MR. KENNEDY, the Government inspector, has reported with regard to the action of this Board. Our Commissioner reported on the infirmary in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of September 22nd. At that time extensive alterations were in progress that promised well, and we then offered some suggestions based on that report which, in our opinion, would have increased the usefulness of the building and have improved the nursing. However, to judge from the report of the inspector, not only have these recommendations received no consideration, but the guardians have retrograded from their original plan; they look upon this building, standing 750 yards apart from the workhouse, merely as a separate block to relieve the house of its overflow, and ignore the fact that if it is to answer the purposes of an infirmary, it must have an adequate nursing staff under the control of a trained head, the fiction of the workhouse matron being at the same time responsible for the nursing still has a firm hold in the guardian mind. Sanitary arrangements, though of recent construction, are defective in ventilation, having no intercepting lobby; washhouse and laundry are badly placed and inadequate, there is no children's ward, and the lying-in ward has been built without a labour room. The accommodation is insufficient, and we foresee that in a very short time the Board will have to spend another large sum in supplementing and altering work which, given a more liberal expenditure at the time, would have sufficed for the requirements of the population. This is sad waste of public money.

### LONDON UNIVERSITY COMMISSION BILL.

THE following is the text of the Bill introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Playfair on behalf of the Government on May 9th:

#### A BILL, INTITULED AN ACT TO MAKE FURTHER PROVISION WITH RESPECT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

WHEREAS the Commissioners appointed to consider the draft charter for the proposed Gresham University in London, have by their report made recommendations with respect to the reconstitution of the University of London, and to the appointment of a Statutory Commission for that purpose.

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

##### *Appointment of Commissioners.*

1.—(1) There shall be a body of Commissioners styled the University of London Commissioners, and consisting in the first instance of the following persons, namely,—

(2) If and whenever any vacancy occurs among the Commissioners, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty the Queen to appoint a person to fill the vacancy; but the name of every person so appointed shall be laid as soon as may be before both Houses of Parliament.

##### *Duration and Proceedings of Commissioners.*

2.—(1) The powers of the Commissioners shall continue until the end of the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six, and no longer; but it shall be lawful for Her Majesty the Queen, from time to time, with the advice of Her Privy Council, on the application of the Commissioners, to continue the powers of the Commissioners for such time as Her Majesty thinks fit, but not beyond the end of the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven.

(2) The Commissioner first named in this Act shall be the Chairman of the Commissioners; and in case of his ceasing from any cause to be a Commissioner, or of his absence from any meeting, the Commissioners present at each meeting shall choose a chairman.

(3) The powers of the Commissioners may be exercised at a meeting at which three or more Commissioners are present.

(4) In case of an equality of votes on a question at a meeting, the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote in respect of that question.

(5) The Commissioners shall have a common seal, which shall be judicially noticed.

(6) Any act of the Commissioners shall not be invalid by reason only of any vacancy in their body; but if at any time, and as long as, the number of persons acting as Commissioners is less than four, the Commissioners shall discontinue the exercise of their powers.

##### *Powers and Duties of Commissioners.*

3.—(1) The Commissioners shall make statutes and ordinances for the University of London in general accordance with the scheme of the report hereinbefore referred to, but subject to any modifications which may appear to them expedient after considering any representations made to them by the Senate or Convocation of the University of London, or by any other body or persons affected.

(2) In framing such statutes and ordinances, the Commissioners shall see that provision is made for securing adequately the interests of non-collegiate students.

(3) All such statutes and ordinances shall be laid forthwith before both Houses of Parliament, and shall come into operation on the expiration of forty days after they have been so laid, and shall have effect as if enacted by this Act, but shall be subject to alteration in manner provided by such statutes and ordinances.

##### *Short Title.*

4. This Act may be cited as the University of London Act, 1895.

## OBITUARY.

### THE LATE MR. A. E. DURHAM.

THE first portion of the funeral of the late Mr. A. E. Durham was conducted on Friday, May 10th, at St. George's, Hanover Square, by the Rev. D. Anderson, the Rector. The chief mourners were the sons, Messrs. Herbert and Frank Durham, the brothers Messrs. E. Ashley and Frederic Durham, and Mr. Godfrey Hickson, son-in-law of the deceased, Mr. Albin Ducamp, Mr. Sharon Turner, and Mr. John Croft. The President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Mr. Christopher Heath, Mr. E. H. Lushington (Treasurer of Guy's Hospital), and nearly all Mr. Durham's former colleagues at the Royal College of Surgeons and at Guy's Hospital, Mr. H. Irving, Mr. Bancroft, Sir W. Broadbent, Sir R. Quain, Sir W. B. Dalby, Dr. C. Holman, and a very large number of other friends, both professional and lay, who crowded the building, were present at the church. During the service, the hymn "Now the Labourer's Task is o'er" was sung, and as the coffin left the church the "Dead March" from *Saul* was played. Many of the mourners then proceeded by train to the Crematorium, near Woking, where the concluding ceremony took place.

WE regret to have to announce the death of Mr. HARRIS BUTTERFIELD, of Sevenoaks, Kent. Mr. Butterfield took the diploma of M.R.C.S., L.S.A. Eng., in 1857, and some twelve years since was appointed Medical Officer of Health of West Kent. Mr. Butterfield had been ailing for a considerable time, and some few months since he underwent an operation for cancer. He was 59 years of age, and leaves a widow, two sons, and a married daughter to mourn his loss. The funeral took place on May 4th at the Sevenoaks Cemetery, a large number of friends of the deceased following the coffin to the grave.

DR. KARL VOGT, the distinguished Professor of Comparative Anatomy of the University of Geneva, died recently, at the age of 77. In 1847 he was appointed to a chair in the University of Giessen, which he soon resigned in consequence of the political troubles of 1848, in which he took an active part. He was banished from Germany and took refuge in Switzerland. After teaching some years at Berne, he was invited in 1852 to the University of Geneva, where he continued in active work as Professor till two years ago.