The medical staff was raised to its full complement of six officers in 1870 and a House Surgeon had been appointed. The number of nurses was increased to nine and the whole of the wards, capable of containing sixty beds, were now thrown open for the accommodation of in-patients.

Later in this report it was stated the "the new Matron, appointed last year, continues to discharge her duties satisfactorily, and is always found most kind and attentive to the children". In the report for 1873 the Matron is named: "Mrs Dickin, the Matron, by the diligent discharge of her duties, and by her kind attention to the children, continues to merit the entire approval of the Committee", and later in the report: "It is worthy of notice that in the returns this year the deaths of children under fifteen years of age are 2236 less than in the previous year".

The objects of the institution, stated in every Annual Report, were:

(i) to provide medical treatment and medicines for children of the poor

(ii) to provide the advancement of medical science, with reference to the diseases of infancy and childhood

(iii) to diffuse among the poor classes a better acquaintance with the management of young children during sickness

(iv) to afford opportunities for the training of women in the special duties of children's nurses.

In the report for 1878, when the "unavoidable closing of the Infirmary to the public for a time must be mainly attributed to the circumstances (an outbreak of smallpox was still very prevalent in the town)", the Committee expressed their regret at having lost the service of Mrs Dickin (1870-1878), who had been appointed to the office of Lady Superintendent in the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London. Miss Roxburgh, "a lady who they believe to be eminently fitted to superintend the various departments both of nursing and housekeeping", was appointed her successor.(11)

The Committee in 1882 again thanked Miss Roxburgh "for the manner in which she has discharged the duties of Lady Superintendent ... they also wish to express their appreciation of the indefatigable and devoted way in which the nurses have performed their share of the duties of the infirmary".(12)

In 1892 the number of deaths of children under fifteen years of age in the borough was 6,332, less than half the total number of deaths - 13,911.(13) The Constitution and general laws were revised, limiting the care of children either as out or in-patients to those under twelve years of age. They also set out that "the Lady Superintendent must be a thoroughly trained nurse and unmarried ..... and shall have the entire charge of the nursing and domestic department of the institution". The Committee again, and in every subsequent report, "desire(d) to record their full appreciation of the services rendered by the Lady Superintendent and the staff generally, whose skill and work have contributed so largely to the satisfactory and efficient working of the infirmary".(14)