

certain branches of Medical science, unless the treatment ordered by the Doctor was faithfully and skilfully carried out, it became necessary to relieve the over-worked Nurse of many of her menial duties, so that her time and thought might be devoted to the sick persons left in her charge. "Necessity is the mother of invention." The "Ward Nurse" was soon a thing of the past, and in her place we find the Trained Staff Nurse, sharing the brain work of Nursing the sick with the Sister, and helping her to teach and train up an efficient relay of Junior Nurses or Probationers, who perform the lighter manual duties, whilst the bulk of the more laborious work is delegated to a Ward-maid or assistant—a young woman, who should not be less than twenty years of age, and should, if possible, be recruited from the respectable class of country servants, who usually undertake the work of general servants to the lower middle classes, and who are strong and healthy in body, and pure in mind. No greater mistake can be made in Ward management by any Superintendent, than to imagine that "anything" does for a Ward-maid, and to lower the standard of the Nursing Staff, by introducing into daily communication with Nurses and patients, the slatternly and grimy young person, who leaves her finger-marks—morally and physically—upon everything she touches.

The standard of cleanliness and neatness in a Hospital Ward is, or ought to be, very high, and many girls, taken from the rank of life from which the Ward-maid is best procured, have not been impressed with their vital importance in their own homes. The Sister will, therefore, not expect to find in every girl who comes into her Ward, to perform the hundred and one duties attached to this situation, the perfection of cleanliness and order, any more than she can expect her Probationers, though well educated young women, to have more than a very elementary knowledge of Nursing the sick. Patience and perseverance will be required on her part, if she is to have a fair amount of success in training her subordinates; and given fair material, she will be to blame if good Nurses and good servants are not the result of her teaching and superintendence.

In a Ward of modern construction, containing thirty beds, and where the fire-places, furniture, and general accommodation are easy to keep clean, one Ward-maid will be required, and there is no reason why she should have to complain of overwork. In many old Hospitals, where scrubbed floors and plain deal furniture are still in use, where health is incompatible without the ceaseless application of the kit-brush, and where the large, open fire-places take half an hour to polish, much cleaning must necessarily be done by the Nurse,

or remain undone; but with varnish and tiles, the Ward-maid requires much less help.

Upon coming on duty at 6.30 a.m., the Ward-maid will find the fires low, and will at once set to work to rake out all ash and cinders, as, unless this precaution is taken, she cannot expect a bright fire or tidy hearth. She will then polish the fire-place, fender, and fire-irons; wash the tiled hearth, and rebuild a substantial fire, which will not require further attention for several hours. It will be the Ward-maid's duty to attend to the fires during the day, and this should be done at stated hours, and when the Medical Staff are not in the Ward. The next duty will be to return to the Ward-kitchen (where a good fire must be kept burning night and day, so that hot water can be procured at a moment's notice), and wash up the crockery used at the patients' breakfast. Next, there will be the Sisters' and patients' day-rooms and the lobby to cleanse and dust; and after prayers have been read, at eight, the boards to polish, following in the wake of the Probationers, who sweep the Ward. A pail, hot water, soap, and flannel will next be required, when the Ward-maid will make a systematic round of the Ward, and wash the tops of the lockers and tables, ewers, and basins.

It is a good plan for the Sister to give to each worker in her Ward a broom, pail, scrubbing-brush, flannel, dusters, and soap. These should be marked with a number, and each kept in a certain place in the lavatory, where they can be inspected with ease, each person keeping her own belongings clean and in good order; and it should be a strict rule that no one should use the utensils belonging to her neighbour. A certain day in the week should also be arranged, on which to give out the necessary supply of weekly stores, such as soap, soda, brass-paste, black-lead, flannels, and dusters. The Sister can then see for herself that all is complete, and in working order.

At nine, after the soiled linen has been counted, the Ward-maid will clean the lavatory, paying special attention to the baths, closets, &c.; and if thoroughly done, this department will take at least an hour. At ten she will return to her Ward-kitchen, which must also be thoroughly cleaned daily, before she goes to her dinner at eleven. At 11.30 preparations must be made in the kitchen for carving and serving the patients' dinners, and plates made warm; and when the dinners are sent up, the Ward-maid will help the Sister to serve them, peeling the potatoes, and heating gravy, beef-tea, milk, &c., but she will not be permitted to wait upon the patients, that being done by the Nursing Staff. Intercourse or familiarity between Ward-maid and patients should be at all times discouraged.

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