

representative and mouthpiece of a Committee. All accounts are kept and paid by her, stores for Hospital and housekeeping given out, the housework arranged and supervised, as also is the Nursing, in which she gives practical help. The salaries are also paid by the Matron, and she takes entire charge of the linen, relieving the Nurse of all responsibility in that matter.

The staff for housework consists of a cook and housemaid; a boy who comes in from 7.30 till twelve a.m., to do the boots, coal, windows, knives, messages; and a charwoman is occasionally engaged for extra busy times. The washing is at present all put out, though we have laundries ready when the place has grown to require it; these, with a gardener one day a week for most of the year, are the entire resources of our staff.

As the Hospital is built to accommodate a dispensary and out-patient department, though neither are at present in full working order, there is plenty of work for all I have mentioned, each part of the Hospital requiring to be kept in such order as to invite inspection at any time. I am the sole Nurse here. We have thirteen beds in three Wards, no resident Medical Officer, but a staff of three local Doctors, with a Consulting Physician resident in London. Each Doctor takes the Hospital a week at a time in turn with the others; all cases coming in during his week remain his patients until discharged, so that we may have all three visiting the Hospital the same week; each Doctor may also send in and attend his own patients at any time. When an accident or case arrives we have immediately to despatch a messenger for the Medical Officer who is on duty. I commence work a quarter before seven a.m., if full, or seven if not. My rule is to get all night utensils cleared away, patients washed, and the greater number of beds made by 7.50. The breakfasts are prepared by the cook, and brought up by the housemaid; I take them round, give medicine, &c., see all comfortable, and am ready for my own at eight, which I take with the Matron in winter, and in my own room, which is furnished with an easy chair and table, and opens on the Women's Ward, in summer. Prayers are read at 8.30 in the Women's Ward in the morning, and the Men's in the evening. My duties next consist of taking temperatures, surgical dressings, douches, &c., and in dusting and preparing the Wards for the visit of the Medical Officers, and must be completed by 10.30 a.m. I have also the Ward lavatories and brasses to keep in order, the housemaid cleaning them once a week. From 10.30 to eleven is my time for dressing. At eleven lunch comes up; I give it out, clearing all away as soon afterwards as possible.

I attend the Matron and Doctors to each case;

should a second arrive during another's visit, I accompany the last comer, leaving the Matron with the former. I thus frequently have the advantage of personally receiving instructions and myself giving the report of the case. At 12.50 the patients' dinner arrives, and after seeing all conveniently settled for taking it, and leaving one in each Ward in charge of a bell to summon me if required, descend to my own with the Matron. Patients take their tea at four p.m.; my own I have at five in my room. Supper is given at 7.30, prayers at 8.15, gas down 8.30, my supper with the Matron at nine, and my gas down 10.30. Odd time in the afternoon is occupied with sewing for the Hospital, padding splints, &c. On account of the Doctors coming at their own time, all extra work is done in the evening, thus—Monday, lockers; Tuesday, heads; Wednesday is my evening off; Thursday, cupboards; Friday, feet and baths; Saturday, lavatories, crockery ware.

It will perhaps be inferred that when full this would be tolerably hard work for one pair of hands, but now steps in the cause of much of the home-like feeling we experience here—that we, the staff, are distinctly cared for; for I am never hard worked, much less over-worked, in the smallest degree; as, should the very least press arise, I have the Matron commencing work with me at my usual hour in the morning, and so on through everything, until all is ready for the clinical round, and indeed throughout the day, so that the feeling is never allowed to arise that I have to get through somehow, for that is here esteemed to be bad for both patients and Nurses. No; none here must be attended to in a hurry, as must necessarily be the case when there is more work than can be comfortably accomplished. And so the Matron, filling the gap oftener and more than is absolutely necessary, causes us at least to admire, and possibly desire to imitate, that unselfishness which should be the chief characteristic of a Nurse, and without some of which homes would, in a great degree, cease to be home-like. Of course we frequently receive special serious cases, that can scarcely be left alone for a minute, and then, as is inevitable with so small a staff, rules have to be a little altered, and both Matron and Nurse work a little closer, relieving each other at meals, and so arranging the work as to keep one in the Ward while the other is out; but the successful recovery of the patient, and the knowledge that possibly it has been hastened by some self-denial, is felt to be ample reward for any discomfort and sacrifice of leisure they have experienced.

A great part of the year night work is found necessary, and it is rather a difficult matter to so arrange that each should have a fair amount of rest; indeed, should we continue to receive a majority

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