

must be conducted within a Hospital, and just as we suggested that there would be one Institution which would be the centre of Nursing lectures for each district, so we expect that there would be one marked out by its natural advantages as the most suitable place for examination purposes.

BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

THE Members met on Friday, May 17, at the Medical Society's rooms in Chandos Street, to hear Dr. Cullingworth read an interesting paper on Obstetric Nursing. There were sixty-five persons present, of whom six were visitors; and one and all seemed to be much interested in the lecture. The chair was taken by Dr. Priestley at eight p.m., and the lecture was followed by a short discussion, in which Miss Foggo-Thomson, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Homersham, and the Chairman took part.

Dr. Priestley said that the subject had shown itself to be one of vast importance. It was not necessary to point out that the exhibited tables of statistics taken from different Hospitals, showing the decrease of mortality in child-birth of late years, represented so many human lives saved owing to the introduction of antiseptics. The Chairman added that if anyone had any question to ask or point to discuss, he felt sure that Dr. Cullingworth would be pleased to answer them.

Miss Foggo-Thomson said that, as she was not a Monthly Nurse, she ought not, perhaps, to say anything on the subject, but having been for some time at the Children's Hospital, Birkenhead, she was much interested in children, especially little children. It had often struck her that very few Nurses really knew the principle of antiseptic dressing. She once asked a Nurse the meaning of it, and the reply was, "Oh, it means killing the germs." Miss Thomson said she thought it would be better if the Matron, or someone else in authority, should thoroughly instruct Probationers in the meaning and use of antiseptics.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that she quite agreed with what Miss Foggo-Thomson had said. There was one thing in particular that should be mentioned, and that was the way in which the Nurses at Hospitals mix the antiseptics. She had never seen a measure of any sort systematically used. If Medical men were to insist on it, this would be done, but if the Surgeons were not particular, they could not expect the Nurses to be. Another important question was the fact that Probationers are taken at the Lying-in Hospitals, without any previous general training whatever, and Mrs. Fenwick quite agreed with the lecturer, and thought that no Nurse should be admitted to the Lying-in

Hospitals, until she had had at least twelve months' general training. Every woman is not fitted for a Monthly Nurse, for in order to be a good one, she must have that motherly instinct which would cause her to look well after, not only the mother, but the child. The Nurse should first learn the details of general Hospital work, and then enter the Lying-in Hospital as a Probationer; but this reform would not be brought about until the Medical authorities discouraged the entrance of untrained women into the large Lying-in Hospitals.

Miss Homersham, in the few words she spoke, said that, while agreeing with the necessity of what Mrs. Fenwick had said, it must be remembered that it was useless to tell Nurses to be accurate, when very often there was no measure at hand, and suggested the introduction into Hospitals of basins, the lower part of which could be marked for ounces, &c., and the upper parts for pints. The majority of Nurses are anxious to be accurate, but were not always successful.

The Chairman (Dr. Priestley), in speaking of the importance of the antiseptic method, gave a very interesting account of his visiting some Hospitals whilst travelling through Northern Europe—viz., at Finland, Copenhagen, and St. Petersburg, and especially mentioned the Hospital founded by the Grand Duchess Katherine, where the rules for the use of antiseptics, and other precautions, were so rigid, and so splendidly enforced, that not a single death had occurred during the three years previous to his visit. Dr. Priestley here exhibited a gown which every person visiting the Wards was required to wear, and also a peculiar bottle for holding and distributing oil, which prevented the contamination of the oil by a sceptic finger.

Dr. Priestley then proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Cullingworth, which was carried by acclamation; and after Dr. Fenwick had proposed a similar vote to the Chairman, which also was carried by acclamation, the meeting came to an end. This meeting concludes the Winter Session.

A GUIDE TO MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NURSING.*

CHAPTER XVI.—ON FEVERS.

IT is quite possible that you may go through your whole course of Hospital training, and have no further experience in the nursing of fevers than what is given by those few cases of enteric fever which you meet with in the General

* These articles are partially from the pen of the late Miss Alice Fisher and Mrs. Norris, and will eventually be published in book form, being revised by the latter.

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