

2. At once remove any soiled linen, and place it in some disinfectant *solution* outside the room.

3. The bed pan to receive the stools should be charged with a small quantity of some powerful disinfectant, and unless kept for the doctor's inspection, at once emptied down the slop sink or closet, which should be kept scrupulously clean and well flushed. If the stool is to be kept, it should be kept perfectly in the open air, and covered with a damp cloth, the surface of which should be sprinkled with a strong deodorant powder, such as that known by the name of "Jeye's" disinfectant.

4. Whilst changing a patient, sprinkle the draw sheet *at the time* with the same powder.

5. Keep your hands scrupulously clean; washing them after attending to any dirty case, and always, as a matter of routine, before going to meals.

6. Never go on duty without doing your best to make a good meal beforehand.

Fever Nursing is a branch of the profession which I am glad to say is daily gaining in popularity.

The disfavour with which it has been regarded in the past is only natural when viewed in the light of certain drawbacks in its history. Such for instance as the invariable practice of the Hospital Committees to at once reduce the numerical strength of the Nursing Staffs, on the periodical diminutions in the number of the patients, the result of which has been not only that the Nurse's tenure of office was always most uncertain, but also that the sudden need of increasing the staff at the shortest possible notice, on the occurrence of a rise in the number of admissions, necessarily implied the engagement of a number of persons who were most unsuited for the office, and with whom the better class Nurses declined to associate. Beyond which the Matrons were usually represented by a number of people, who had no knowledge of the needs and requirements of the Nurses, and not having undergone any previous training themselves, were quite out of sympathy with their subordinates. The accommodation too provided for the Nurses was quite inadequate, and there was no sufficient recognition of that class distinction which should obtain between the Nursing Staff and the various servants employed in the Institution.

Now all these objections are capable of removal, and as a matter of fact have been, or are now, in process of removal, as the various Committees have become convinced of the growing requirements of the present day.

Certain disabilities, however, are inherent in the work, and as such are incapable of much modifica-

tion, I refer to the risk of infection, and the prejudice which is so prevalent on the part of the Nurse's parents and friends against her being engaged in any such service. This and the groundless fear of her taking infection about with her, implies a certain degree of social ostracism which is to be deplored. The work, too, has less variety in it, and there is not the same amount of traffic in the wards of a Fever Hospital, as she has become accustomed to in the General Hospital.

Now these drawbacks are recognised, and I think are fairly met by the improved accommodation, the higher salaries, the longer holidays, and the greater security of office which are being introduced in the Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

The class and professional qualifications of the Nurses is shewing a corresponding improvement, and as a result of some twelve years' experience in different Hospitals I am prepared to state that there are to be found as good Nurses in some of the Fever Hospitals as there are outside them.

Now it by no means follows that because a Nurse is thoroughly competent and well trained in her art, that she will necessarily prove a success as the Charge Nurse of a Fever Ward. Far from it, for certain "Sisterly" functions are expected of her, which she may not have been previously called upon to perform. Having no Sister to rely upon she will be held responsible for the work of her subordinates, numbering three or four persons, and to extract the maximum amount of work with the least amount of friction, will call for her highest qualities of tact and discretion. She will also be held responsible for the cleanliness of her ward; the maintenance of her stock of linen and patients' clothing, and the accuracy of the laundry book; moreover she will have to requisition for the daily diets and the necessary medical and ward stores, and, a point of some importance, she will be expected to see that the same are not wasted or otherwise misappropriated.

It will therefore, I think, be apparent that Fever Nursing is no sinecure, for there is no form of disease which makes greater calls on a Nurse's capabilities, nor any kind of illness for the treatment of which the doctor is more dependent on the Nurse, than in the case of a severe attack of one of the infectious Fevers. It is therefore of the first importance that a Nurse should possess a sound knowledge of the conditions underlying the work which she is called upon to perform, and it is with a desire to assist in the extension of such knowledge that I have undertaken to address you on these two occasions.

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