

performed. All medical cases are received excepting leprosy and small-pox.

The principles of antiseptics were well understood. The operating theatre was built with a floor sloping to the centre from which a drain carried away the antiseptic fluid, carbolic 1 in 20, or corrosive sublimate 1 in 2,000, which are used so freely that the operating surgeon uses india-rubber overshoes when at work, as well as a linen coat and mackintosh apron. The physician, who according to our conductor, was a very busy man, also wears a long linen coat when going his rounds.

The greatest deviation from our method of treatment was the use of moss, *not peat*, instead of antiseptic wool for pads for covering wounds; the deaconess told us they boiled it in corrosive sublimate, 1 in 2,000, and found it absorbent and light, and that the result was very good. The gauzes in use were iodoform and sal-alembroth, which were carefully kept in air tight enamelled boxes; the instruments for use in the theatre were kept in a glass case. The operating table was a simple iron one, without any of the modern improvements.

When going over the male wards we were met by a deacon who acts as male Nurse, usually taking charge of the entire male division; he wore a blue linen uniform, and did all the work done by a female Nurse in our Hospitals. It was only by coming into contact with him that we learnt that the deaconess who was acting as our conductor was not one of the permanent staff; she told us in her broken English, that she was "a schoolmaster" teaching in a school at Trondhjem, and that for the last three years she had spent all her holidays and every Sunday in the Hospital nursing the patients. She further confessed that her ambition was to go to London to train in the Scandinavian Hospital there, but that at present she was not free to leave home, as she had an aged and infirm father who was dependent on her. Is not this an example of unselfish devotion on the part of their sister in the far north, which our Nurses who work under much more favourable circumstances may well take a lesson from. For ourselves we could not but feel the contrast between our manner of taking holiday, and that of this young girl who appeared quite unconscious that her act was any sacrifice on her part. We were indeed much impressed with the feeling of sympathy existing between the Nursing staff and their patients. The same deaconess showed us a young man who had suffered acutely from hæmoptysis, and, in her broken English she said, "I was so glad (interested) in him that I stayed with him night and day." She seemed to think nothing of a 36 hours' day. What a lesson to us who clamour for an 8 hours' day, and think 14 hours' work for less than half the number of patients "killing"! This girl has never taken a rest from work for

three years, and looks for no credit for her self-sacrifice. Does not her simple devotion to duty touch a chord which should find an answering note in the hearts of her southern sisters.

On leaving the Elizabeth Hospital, we tried to express the pleasure we felt at the kind reception we had met with, and we parted with the mutual hope of meeting again.

Our steamer brought us a few days later to Hammerfest, the northernmost town in the world, lying more than 70 degrees north of the Equator. There are two Hospitals here, one containing sixty beds for infectious, the other with twenty beds for general cases. The latter is in charge of two Sisters belonging to St. Vincent's Order, who were most kind in shewing us everything. They were Germans, so we were able to communicate more freely with each other. At the time of our visit there were only five patients in the Hospital. Everything was beautifully clean, and the wards, which were most of them small rooms for one patient, were very neat and comfortable, but gave more the impression of a private hospital, or apartments for invalids and their friends, than of a charitable institution. The work done seemed to be less advanced than that at Trondhjem from a professional standpoint, though the patients would, I feel sure, receive the kindest treatment possible from the sisters. We learned that the intense cold in the winter made the work very difficult; it being almost impossible to maintain sufficient warmth in the rooms. This could easily be understood as they told us they often had 30° of cold, which became almost unendurable when accompanied by a severe wind. Every room had its stove, but this was hardly sufficient, and we were surprised not to find double windows such as are used so frequently in Germany as protection against wind. Hammerfest is the emporium of the cod liver oil trade, the whole atmosphere being pervaded with the not very agreeable odour of the oil. At the manufactory they endeavour to tempt visitors to taste samples which they offer in very attractive looking glasses, but most people are content to take its excellence on trust and politely decline the uninviting draught, and we cannot speak from experience of the virtues of fresh cod liver oil.

The few notes of these visits made most hurriedly may encourage some of your readers to judge for themselves of the Norwegian hospitals, and I feel sure they will be as much pleased as I and my companion were with the frank and kindly reception they will meet with from their Northern Sisters.

H. C. POOLE.

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