

HYGIENIC UNDERWEAR.

It is unnecessary, in the present day, to point out to trained Nurses the sanitary and health-preserving properties of under-clothing made from pure woollen material. The power of retaining the heat of the body, and at the same time of permitting free action of the skin, are widely recognised as necessities of suitable underwear. And while there are many firms which have done much to popularise such clothing by producing it at a cost within the means of all, the attention of our readers may with advantage be drawn to the especial advantage derived from obtaining such goods direct from the manufacturer. We have been led to refer to this matter in consequence of various articles submitted to us by Messrs. Fleming, Reid & Co., the well-known Scotch firm of Spinners, and to whose productions we have on a previous occasion been able to afford well-merited praise. The special goods to which we deem it advisable to draw the attention of Nurses, and especially of those engaged in district work, who are often, therefore, exposed to inclement weather, are some chest protectors in pure wool, either in scarlet or in natural grey, and the price of which is only 2s. 3d.; and cardigan knickers or divided skirts which are now so largely worn, and which, while allowing perfect freedom of movement, at the same time maintain the bodily warmth. The latter are made in black, natural grey, tan, and other colours, of pure wool, and only cost 8s. 6d. As we have said, these garments should be invaluable for those occupied in district work, who require, therefore, to be warmly and strongly clothed, and yet to be encumbered with as little weight of clothing as possible. The Abdominal Belts in natural wool and the Knee Caps manufactured by this firm also deserve the attention of Nurses, who so frequently are required to recommend the makers of such articles. The price of the former varies from 2s.; and of the latter from 1s. the pair. We are informed that Nurses can obtain any further particulars which they may desire concerning these excellent and economical goods by writing direct to the manufacturers at The Worsted Mills, Greenock, N.B.

A SPONGE CARRIER.

A most ingenious and useful invention has recently been brought to our notice in the shape of a sponge carrier. All Doctors and Nurses have experienced the annoyance and many disadvantages consequent upon an attempt to carry sponges loose in a bag. Either the sponge remains wet and yields its moisture freely to all the other contents of the receptacle, rusting

some and spoiling others, or it becomes dry and absorbs whatever dust and dirt comes in its way, and so becomes a potent source of danger on the next occasion on which it is used. The impossibility of keeping such sponges aseptic, therefore, has long been recognised, and careful surgeons and nurses have often been compelled in consequence to employ, as far as possible, perfectly new sponges, when, with proper precautions as to cleanliness and careful carriage, old sponges would have sufficed. This invention, therefore, appears to us likely to prove most valuable. It consists of a metal dish into which the sponge is placed and compressed, and the lid being placed and closed by rotating it, the sponge is kept free from the air, from dust and other impurities, and can be carried in the bag or the pocket without any of the contained moisture escaping. The price of the case is 5s., and although we believe that it would be found useful by all travellers, it is certain that it would prove especially so to medical men and Nurses, and to the latter, indeed, it would represent a valuable investment, because the first cost of the sponge-case would soon be covered by the saving which it would effect in the life and usefulness of the sponge. The appliance can be purchased from S. Fisher, 188, Strand, London.

Over the Hospital Teacups.

"DID you see that suggestion made by a correspondent in THE RECORD, that we should have a Committee of Fashions in each Hospital?" said the new Pro. "I do hope we shall, but it sounds too good to be true. I don't believe I shall ever get used to these 'scrubby' collars and cuffs—and so tight, too. Couldn't some one invent some collar that wasn't starched? I don't see why we couldn't have soft bands, like widows."

"It wouldn't look professional," said the Staff Nurse, as she rinsed out the teapot. "And there's a lot of discipline to be got out of the stiff collar. The Church found that out long ago, when the clerical neck-gear was invented. I know lots of curates that would be quite frisky if it were not for the restraining influence of the stiff, ritualistic starchy band round their throats. And it's the same with the Pros. They've got to be broken into harness, and the uniform's about the best way of doing it."

The Pro looked snubbed.

"Well, anyway, I don't wear tight stays, like some of the Staff Nurses. I feel quite back-achy enough as it is, without compressing my dorsal muscles—you see I'm learning some anatomy—into a sixteen-inch corset."

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