

is here a four-fold hardship. First to the "orderlies" themselves, who are no more and no less than useless ornaments, or quasi-detectives. And the injustice to the Nurses, presumably trained women, to have "chiefs"—and chiefs who have no knowledge to guide them—"among them taking notes;" next to the patients, because it may safely be asserted that a good many of the patients will regard the "orderlies" as duly constituted "protectors of their privileges," and as being superior to the Nurses; and, lastly, the system must prove a serious stumbling-block to the Superintendent, who is responsible for the efficient Nursing of the Hospital. It is from her the Board should take reports as to the requirements and developments of the Nursing arrangements, and from her alone. There cannot possibly be a "go-between" authority established without the gravest possible danger of friction.

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IN addressing a group of Nurses who had just completed their three years' training and were receiving their certificates, Dr. Strock, of New Jersey, gave some excellent advice when he said:—

"If Nurses' clubs or societies are organised in your place of residence, become a member, and profit by the association and contact with each other. If you possess literary ability, as I am pleased to know some of you do, become contributors to the Nurse Journals, and thus give others in your profession the advantages of your experience and observation. In brief, do not hide your light under a bushel, for it is not thus that the sum of human knowledge is added to. The men and women of any calling who give the world the benefit of their thought and study are true benefactors of their race."

FOLDING-BEDS are not so common here as in the United States. There, inventive genius, roused by the necessities of economy and high rents, has prompted most marvellous developments of folding-beds. In the day-time, many of these beds have the appearance of wardrobes, of billiard-tables, and all sorts of presentiments of "what they are not." American Nurses often complain bitterly of the difficulties of properly nursing sick people on these improvised beds. They are often very low, frequently too wide, and there is always the possibility that they may "double up" at the wrong moment, and assume the shape they are in the habit of counterfeiting. It is a very common thing to read in American papers of persons sleeping in these "sham" beds in homes, boarding-houses, and hotels, being suddenly "trapped" during the night and often suffocated, owing to the bed, without any warning, and with no consideration whatever for its occupier, assuming an upright position as a cupboard, or suddenly re-converting itself into a chest of drawers.

Medical Matters.

LOCAL ANÆSTHESIA.



THE disadvantages of a general anæsthetic, such as ether or chloroform, and especially the subsequent discomforts to the patient, have always made medical men try to obtain local loss of sensibility by other methods. Formerly, the application of a mixture of ice and salt in a little bag of gauze was sufficient to numb the skin and to permit minor operations to be performed without pain to the patient. Next the use of a spray of ether directed upon the skin of the affected part was found to be adequate in many instances. Then it was shown that injections of cocaine under the skin had a similar beneficial result, and finally it has been discovered that the injection of a weak, warm solution of salt, and still more of a cold solution, produces similar local insensibility. The best result, however, is obtained when a very small proportion of salt is added to distilled water, because the anæsthesia itself is then painless. A fine needle is passed obliquely under the skin and the fluid injected, thus producing a white elevated wheal, which is entirely devoid of sensibility, and will remain so for a period varying—according to the individual—from two to twenty minutes.

MILK AND TYPHOID FEVER.

FORMERLY, cases of typhoid fever were almost invariably ascribed to the influence of contaminated water; but it has now been proved by extended observation and by reliable experiments that the bacilli of typhoid fever found in ordinary water are too feeble, in consequence perhaps of their inability to obtain sufficient nourishment from their surrounding fluid, to be really dangerous. But when the bacilli have been rendered more virulent by passing through some medium from which they can derive increased strength, they become more dangerous, and sufficiently hostile and active to multiply and cause their special disease. This fact, therefore, has led to the belief that milk is a much more dangerous medium of infection in typhoid fever than water can possibly be. The same truth faces us in the consideration of other infectious diseases, and supports the conclusion which has been independently arrived at, that scarlet fever, for example, is more frequently communicated by means of milk than by any other medium. The moral of these facts is obvious—that the greatest care must be taken to prevent milk being contaminated by the addi-

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