

Rural Workhouses," in which she strongly condemned the employment of paupers as nurses, even when this course was sanctioned by the medical officer. "Skill" says Miss Chapman, "is obviously not to be expected of such persons, but, beyond the sum of suffering which lack of knowledge implies in such matters, experience of pauper nursing has unhappily not seldom exemplified the evils which indifference, cupidity, and want of forbearance entail." Miss Chapman also advised unexpected visits by the Visiting Committee, and subsequent reports to the Board on the existing arrangements for the care of the sick and aged by day and night.

The pauper attendant dies hard. It is a most astonishing fact that Boards of Guardians struggle so hard to retain the right to employ services which have over and over again been demonstrated unsatisfactory, extravagant, and open to all kinds of abuse. There is no doubt, however, that the days of the pauper attendant are numbered, and that public opinion will not much longer tolerate the "care" of the sick being placed in hands so entirely unsuitable.

SUMPTUARY LAWS.

FROM time to time we are consulted as to the advisability and possibility of obliging trained nurses to wear a regulation uniform, by which they may be distinguished from the many persons who at present don what is termed a uniform, for many and various reasons, but who have never been inside a hospital. To such an extent has this practice been carried, that many nurses, who formerly systematically wore outdoor uniform, have now discarded it, not caring to be seen in a costume which is certainly no longer the mark of the nursing profession. Nursemaids taking children out for their constitutional, housemaids on their evenings out, and other persons for less honourable purposes, all are frequently met now a days wearing what is more, or less, a nursing costume. We do not, however, think that the abuse of uniform can be remedied by any sumptuary laws. We have passed the days when these would be accepted, or even tolerated. We look rather to the days—not, we hope, very far distant—when trained nurses will have a definite status given to them by Act of Parliament, and will be recognized as members of an honourable profession—to remedy the abuses which now exist.

The Nursing of Maternity Cases.

By MARGARET BREAY,

Late Superintendent St. John's Maternity Home.

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PROTRUDING NAVEL.

A PROTRUDING navel is also usually the result of dragging upon the cord. After this has separated the navel must be kept in place by a pad firmly applied. Perhaps nothing is better for this purpose than a piece of cork about one-sixth of an inch thick, covered with absorbent wool and linen. A slice off a cork of one of Liebig's extract of meat jars is admirable for the purpose. An aluminium pad is now supplied by Messrs. Reynolds and Bransom, of Leeds. This is very satisfactory if kept in the right position; if not it will do more harm than good. Strapping firmly applied is also used sometimes.

POINTS TO BE NOTED.

The first time that an infant passes urine should always be noted and reported. If this is delayed beyond twelve hours, measures must be taken to induce this necessary act. A hot fomentation will frequently be efficacious; in extreme cases it may be necessary to pass a catheter. As a routine practice it is well whenever changing an infant to hold it out, supported on the hands of the nurse. It will quickly acquire the habit of passing water at regular intervals in this way, and there is the further advantage that it is likely to keep dry much longer than would otherwise be the case. The washing of the child's napkins is a point which requires attention. If in the absence of other causes the child becomes chafed and sore the use of soda, or irritating chemicals, in the washing of the napkins at the laundry should be suspected. If this is found to be the case it should be at once prohibited. In a Maternity Home it is usual for the nurses to wash out the napkins which are simply wet, and to send to the laundry those which are soiled. It would seem unnecessary to say that the dirty and lazy habit of drying wet napkins, and putting them on an infant again without washing, is absolutely inadmissible, were it not that from time to time one still hears that this uncleanly practice is inculcated.

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