

rooms, and 26 nurses, the following arrangements has proved satisfactory: ward linen and nurses' underwear and aprons on Monday; ward linen and nurses' uniforms on Wednesday; officers' clothing, including bed linen, on Thursday; and ward clothes again on Friday. Four women are employed, and on Saturday night the laundry is clear of all but clothes collected on that and the previous day. The servants' washing is easily managed in large hospitals, where it is usually done by the laundresses, I believe. But in small institutions, where the washing, and especially the ironing, for fifteen or twenty maids is a large item in the work, it is sometimes a little difficult to arrange satisfactorily. In some instances, each maid is expected to do her own work, but this necessitates an irregular use of the laundry, with a waste of soap, starch, etc., which is not desirable. I have compromised by having all servants' clothes washed in the laundry on the same day by the laundresses, and each maid irons her own—only at stated times, however.

Clean linen may be sorted immediately as it comes through the mangle, and placed in the basket ready for the ward where it belongs. Or all of it may be sent to a general linen room. In some places, only the body linen goes to the linen room, there to be mended and sorted for the wards. In other hospitals all of the linen is kept in a general linen room, but I did not learn by what method it reaches the wards, whether ordered by head nurses daily or as needed. Private patients' personal clothing, that for the officers and for the nurses may be made up into bundles before leaving the laundry, or the nurses' clothes may be taken to the nurses' home, and there sorted.

About one-half the number of hospitals have a standard list of linen for each department. This list may be kept in an inventory book for each ward, and, as far as possible, the supply of linen is made to conform to it. Worn out linen is usually replaced once a month by the system of exchange. In one large hospital where the department under consideration seems particularly well managed, the entire stock of each ward is counted monthly, when old articles are exchanged for new, and the losses are made up.

The monthly count by head nurses is in vogue in a number of other institutions; but as far as I can learn, only the worn clothing is exchanged at that time. In those hospitals where an inventory of the entire linen supply is made quarterly, twice yearly, or annually, it is then that losses are made good. Several superintendents report magnificent losses in linen, by far the larger number could not say, and one hospital of 200 beds gives 1,095 as the number of pieces lost annually. This must vary according to the general management, whether it be competent or otherwise. Of course, the laundry is not entirely responsible by any means,

as there are countless other ways in which linen may disappear.

It has been suggested that a large hospital laundry might be nothing less than a training school for maids, and managed on much the same principle as our own schools. It seems to me that the greatest obstacle, in the establishment of such a system, would be the women themselves, but this is a theory which I must leave to others to work out.

It would be interesting to know the experience of any Superintendents of Training Schools who from choice of circumstance have assumed control of the laundry, to know if they have been able to institute reforms, and to note improvement in the quality of work done. Is there any superintendent who has not welcomed the experience, or who would not wish it for her nurses, especially for those whose qualifications indicate ability for hospital administration.

It makes us feel that four years are none too many for all that we would like to do toward fitting women for positions of responsibility. What of teaching methods, of office work, house keeping, marketing, to say nothing of the wards, linen room and the laundry.

May I take this opportunity to extend my hearty thanks to these members of this Association who so kindly and promptly responded to my request for information.

## Legal Matters.

### SLANDERING A PROFESSIONAL NURSE.

IN the High Court of Justice an action recently came before the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury, in which Miss Constance Wakely, a professional nurse, claimed damages from Miss Mary Duncan, the proprietress of a Nurses' Institute at Blackheath, for slander. Miss Wakely was formerly employed at the Institute, and the slander complained of was of imputations affecting the plaintiff's moral character. Before any evidence was given, the plaintiff's Counsel stated that the action had been settled. The defendant had withdrawn her charge against the plaintiff, and had made an apology for circulating the rumour. The plaintiff was to receive £100 as an indemnity against the costs of the action. As the plaintiff did not desire to make money out of the action, but only sought to clear her character, she was satisfied with these terms.

### "NURSE BRANDISH."

It is stated by the *Warwick Advertiser*, which has its information from "an authentic source," that "Nurse Brandish has accepted a satisfactory permanency, where the past will never be referred to."

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