

Hospital, afterwards in St. Luke's Hospital, New York, and finally in the Royal Military Hospital at Netley, and the Herbert Military Hospital at Woolwich, returning, for family reasons, to Sydney a few months ago. Her sister nurses, the Misses A. Bessie Pocock, Nancy Newton, Elizabeth Nixon, Emily Hoadley, Penelope Frater, Elizabeth Lister, Austin, Marion Phillips Martin, Elizabeth Steel, Anna Jane Matchett, and Anna Gardiner Garden, each possess considerable experience in nursing work, and in volunteering for service in South Africa have, in more than one instance, made heavy sacrifices. It has been arranged that each of the nurses returning after the conclusion of the war shall be reinstated in her old position if so desired. They are all well educated, possessing a kindly disposition, and have already become known as the "Australian Nightingales," after the world-famous heroine of the Crimea. Their presence at the scene of war cannot fail to prove beneficial, and will add another link to the many which unite the Australian colonies with the mother country.

JOHN PLUMMER.

Ablutions in Hospitals.

WE should like to receive the opinion of members of the nursing profession as to the mode of washing a patient in bed, which they hold to be the correct one. The subject has been brought to our notice because, in two handbooks of nursing which we have recently received for review, we have read—and we have taken exception to the recommendation in each case—that patients should each day wash, or be washed, "to the waist."

THIS raises a vision before us of a patient sitting up in bed, stripped to the waist, a method of treatment likely to result in a chill to a sensitive person, and, moreover, the position is not one in which the process of washing can be best effected. If it is necessary to wash a patient in bed, this should, in all cases in which it is possible, be done, in our opinion, in the prone position, under a blanket. A store of "washing blankets" should be kept for this purpose, and old blankets, which have been discarded as bed blankets, may be usefully employed in this way.

THE bed-clothes covering the patient should be turned back, and the washing-blanket placed over him, the night-shirt, or night-dress, should then be removed, and he should be washed piecemeal under the blanket, only the part which is actually being washed being uncovered. Thus, first the face, neck and ears are washed, then each arm in turn, then the front of the trunk—this, of course, being done under the blanket—and then, if the patient can turn on his side, he should do

so while his back is being washed. The towel—preferably a bath-towel—should be tucked along it while this is being done, to guard against the possibility of the bed becoming damped. Any tendency to redness of the skin can then be observed, and, in the case of patients confined to bed for any length of time, spirit and starch should always be applied. Finally, the patient should, in every case where he is able to perform this duty for himself, be given a soaped flannel, and be instructed to wash himself privately, the towel being placed underneath him for this purpose.

His shirt and flannel jacket, which have, presumably been airing at the fire while the washing has been going on, are then put on, after which his bed is made.

IN the case of a private patient, the lower extremities should also be washed, thus completing the bath, but time does not permit of this being done in a busy hospital ward every morning. But twice a week the feet and legs of those patients who are confined to bed should be washed in the evening, only so can such patients be kept sweet and clean, a state necessary to maintain them in the best condition for recovery, and most essential for the general well-being of the ward.

IT is pertinent to enquire, how—if a patient is only washed down to the waist each morning—the nurse is to keep herself informed as to the condition of his back. Does this habit account for some of the bed-sores of which rumour reaches us from time to time, even in the case of patients who are able to get up?

Nottingham Children's Hospital Bazaar

WE acknowledge, with many thanks, for the Lady Superintendent's stall, a box containing four sweet little babies' knitted jackets, prettily ribboned, from Miss Eleanor Rust, District Nurse, Summerseat, near Manchester. All articles received will be carefully kept by us until the date of the Bazaar is finally arranged, when they will be forwarded to Miss M. Spittal for her stall. All busy nurses realize what an undertaking it is for the Matron of a Hospital to dress an entire stall. But many helpers make light work, and we have no doubt that, during the next few months, we shall receive so many charming articles that Miss Spittal will be amply supplied with contributions to her stall.

WE hear, on all sides, that subscriptions to old-established charitable institutions are falling off in an alarming manner, and, as it appears womens' fingers are all busy working for our soldiers, it has been thought wiser to postpone the Bazaar at Nottingham until the autumn.

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