

that an expert surgeon does not need a brilliant light for the performance of this office. Our instructions to the nursing staff, therefore, were that they should place everything required in readiness for the house-surgeon or student, and should then wait *outside* the screens in order to be at hand should anything further be required. Only in case of emergency were they to be behind the screens, or to pass the catheter on male patients.

Of course, some twenty years ago, when the refinements of nursing had not been introduced into our hospitals by educated women, the same attention was not given to niceties of this kind. It was a common custom even for the visiting-surgeon to throw back the bedclothes from both male and female patients unceremoniously in the presence of students and nurses, instead of waiting for the nurse to arrange them decorously, and we remember, even in those days, having the temerity to expostulate with a visiting-surgeon with regard to this practice. He perpetually chaffed us afterwards on what he termed our "mock modesty," but he was, nevertheless, good enough to accede to our request for a more seemly arrangement of these matters.

The question of the male catheter is not, however, disposed of when the hospital aspect has been settled. There still remains the private patient to be considered. There are now a considerable number of serious operations performed on the bladder, and the expert specialist must, subsequently, pass the catheter periodically himself, which is manifestly impossible; or he must leave a skilful lieutenant on duty for him. We are inclined to think that, in the future, when a more satisfactory class of men present themselves for training than is usual in this country at present, and when efficient training in a good general training school is open to them, that the nursing of this class of case might well pass into the hands of male nurses; but at present they must, to a large extent, be nursed by women, and therefore, every woman, before she is fully trained, should be taught how to perform this duty, in order that she may be able to undertake it, if required, in private work, for, in an emergency, it is unquestionable that her expert knowledge, or her ignorance of this duty, may save the life, or result in the death, of the patient.

She should, therefore, in her probationary days, be taught by a competent authority how to perform this duty. Preferably, such instruction should be given when a child needs the periodical passing of a catheter, and, if the Ward Sister is an expert, the instruction may well be given by her. This, however, is a very different matter from a Sister being required unnecessarily to pass a catheter on adult male patients.

## Nursing Echoes.

*\*\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



TEA parties in honour of the National Council of Women, who meet in Brighton next week, are to be given, we hear, at the Sussex County Hospital, and at Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses. Mrs. Lionel Lucas, the President, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Hon. Secretary, will both be present on Wednesday the 24th, the day for which invitations have been issued to view the Home.

INVITATIONS have been sent out by Miss Edith Debenham, to a Reception, from 3 to 6, on Saturday, 20th, to inaugurate the "St. Andrew's House Hotel and Club for Nurses," at St. Andrew's House, Mortimer Street, W. We think the well thought out arrangements of this new hotel for nurses would greatly interest Mr. Gilbert Parker, M.P., and others who have been, of late, interesting themselves in the question of working women's hotels and homes—it would give them many serviceable hints, and impress them with the necessity of providing tasteful and comfortable surroundings if their scheme is to be appreciated by the sex devoted to "home." It is quite an error to imagine that working women of both the professional and industrial classes, who have their living to earn, do not long for a warm and cosy corner for rest, when the day's work is done. We women shall always retain some pussy cat qualities, in spite of a growing and justifiable love of independence.

AT the Marylebone Police Court last Monday, the curiosity of everybody present was aroused by the appearance in the dock of a tall and respectable-looking young woman, attired as a hospital nurse. The long, dark-blue cloak, the prim little bonnet, tied with a broad bow of white muslin, were in proper trim, and at a glance it was apparent that her standing in that disgraceful enclosure was not due to drink nor disorderliness.

As it presently transpired, what she was charged with was begging in the streets. The police-constable who arrested her stated that the previous day he saw her in the Edgware Road

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)