

Dr. Jane Walker seems to have been peculiarly unlucky in the nurses employed in her Institution, as she speaks of the monotony of their work, and implies that they soon wearied of it. Such has not been the experience of other heads of Sanatoria. Of course every Institution has its own regulations, but it seems a little difficult to picture a Sanatorium where, according to modern theories, patients must rest in a recumbent position at least an hour before and after meals, living an entirely open-air life, and taking only prescribed and graduated exercise, but where also they make their own beds, lay the tables for meals, clear away and wash up dirty crockery, and do the dusting of the establishment—in addition to a little nursing—all occupations that must by their very nature be performed indoors, and which must, if properly done, take up a very considerable portion of time.

Four or five years ago Sanatorium patients were expected to do most of the domestic work in the Institution, but enquiries at almost all the Sanatoria under good medical supervision at the present day will reveal a gradual change in their household economy; thus, the making of beds by patients is forbidden on account of the risk of hæmoptysis in the turning of heavy mattresses, and the irritation to the air passages from fluff; washing up after meals has ceased to be the rule because of the nausea sometimes induced, and dusting has now become the nurse's duty in a Sanatorium, because she has been taught its importance in a building inhabited by the phthisical, and can be trusted to actually remove and destroy all dust, instead of flicking it off one piece of furniture to settle on another.

Dr. Coates (Manchester) dealt at some length on the infectivity of dust deposited naturally from the atmosphere, and described a series of experiments he had carried out in three classes of houses:—

1. Dirty houses where a consumptive had been living, who took no precautions whatsoever, as to the disposal of sputa, but who spat freely about the floor. How virulent dust was obtained which infected and speedily killed guinea-pigs.

2. Houses which had been kept clean, but where a consumptive patient was living, who was not sufficiently careful as to the disposal of sputa. Here infectious dust was also found, but not of so virulent a nature as that in Class 1.

3. Very dirty houses in which there has been no case of tuberculosis disease for several years past. Here the dust was found to contain other poisonous bacilli, but not the tubercle bacillus.

Dr. Coates further proved that dust taken from within one or two feet of the floor was far more dangerous than that taken from an elevation of five or six feet above the floor, and he was

careful to take his specimens of dust from parts of the rooms not likely to have become infected by direct contamination with the sputa as it was expectorated.

Of these experiments those of Class 2 contain an important lesson for nurses, especially for those engaged in private work, viz., that in houses where ordinary cleanliness is observed, and where consumptives are living, who do not either on the one hand spit promiscuously, or on the other have taken precautions considered necessary in Sanatoria, the dust on the furniture, etc. (especially that within one foot or so of the floor), teems with tubercle bacilli, and, therefore, the greatest care must be taken in its removal and destruction; thus, the sweeping must be done with plenty of damp tea leaves or wet sawdust, and dusting with damp cloths wrung out in boiling water and subsequently boiled.

On the other hand it is interesting to know that dust taken from the waiting rooms of the outpatient department of the Manchester Consumption Hospital showed negative results, as did that, also, of various railway carriages, although dust from a railway station waiting room was distinctly dangerous.

### War Medals for Nurses.

General disappointment was felt throughout the nursing world on Tuesday morning when daily papers were opened, and it was found that the names of the Army Nursing Sisters who were summoned to Marlborough House on the previous day, with some 500 soldiers, and there presented with medals by the King, were omitted from the list. Although we have taken active measures to obtain the names of the nurses who had been honoured, we regret that the list promised by the War Office has not reached us in time for insertion this week. The *one* list of the Sisters' names sent to Marlborough House (there was no duplicate) has, we presume, not yet found its way back to the War Office.

It is gratifying, however, to know that upwards of 100 Nursing Sisters received their War Medals for active service, on Monday, and that both the King and Queen regarded with marked sympathy the corps of Nurses, who looked charming in their bright and tasteful uniform. Among the number were two colonial born Nurses, and by their Majesties' special request these were brought up separately at the close of the distribution, and were honoured by a long chat with the King and Queen, followed by a hearty hand-shake from the Commander-in-Chief.

We congratulate all these happy Sisters upon their well deserved honours.

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