

The British hospital at Port Said has an English superintendent, who has four fully trained nurses under her, three for the hospital and one for private cases. They are all engaged from England for three years.

The Government hospital at Port Said is nursed by Sisters of the Bon Pasteur order.

The Greek hospital in Alexandria also employs English sisters.

#### ORGANIZATIONS OF CERTIFICATED NURSES.

Of these there are three in Cairo. (1) The English hospital and Victoria Nursing Home, the staff of which consists of a Matron and seven sisters, all English. The nurses are employed in the hospital and for outside work. (2) The English Nursing Home, which has a superintendent and four nurses. (3) The Marianna Hughes Nursing Fund which employs two nurses. The nurses employed by it are engaged by the Matron of the Kasr el Aini hospital, and are under her supervision. They nurse for any doctor in Cairo, and may be sent to other parts of Egypt by special permission from the Committee of the Fund. They are engaged for six or eighteen months, and when not nursing private patients, they are employed in the Government hospital.

In Alexandria the Victoria Home which is a home for governesses and a registry office for servants, keeps three nurses, whom it sends out to case as they are required.

### A Practical Sterilizer.

An interesting lecture was given last Tuesday afternoon at the Royal United Service Institution by Dr. Leigh Canney, on "Typhoid, the Destroyer of Armies, and its Abolition." Sir William Broadbent presided.

Dr. Canney maintained that water-borne diseases, such as typhoid, dysentery, and cholera are all preventible during war by methods known to medical science. In the South African war the real remedy—prevention—had been overlooked. He described an apparatus which he advocated for use with armies in the field. It consists of a cylindrical copper boiler with a large heating surface below, and holds fifty pints of water. An iron stand is provided under which a petroleum lamp, with rapid and complete air pressure, is placed. The weight of the whole apparatus is 38½ lbs., and it measures 33 inches in height, and 17 inches in diameter. By its means fifty pints of water can be raised from 54 degrees Fahr. to boiling point in eleven minutes, three-quarters of a pint of petroleum being consumed in the process. Cooling can be effected by covering the pint tins for six minutes with cloth damped in the fluid.

## The International Congress of Nurses.

### MORNING SESSION.

Wednesday, September 18th, 1901.

### HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION.

#### WOMEN ON HOSPITAL BOARDS.

#### DISCUSSION.

The Discussion on Mrs. Hampton Robb's paper was opened by Miss Mary C. Gilmour, Superintendent of the New York Training School for Nurses, Blackwell's Island, with special reference to the work of the late Miss Louise Darche in having an Advisory Board of Women appointed at the above mentioned hospital.

Miss Gilmour said:—

"There seems to be such a diversity of opinion as to the usefulness, or helpfulness of women on Hospital Boards that it is a difficult matter to know where to begin. People in general connected with hospitals feel that as a rule, these women are not practical; they give too much attention to petty detail and not enough to the great object for which the work is going on—the saving of human life. That a misplaced chair or rug is in their eyes of greater moment and will excite keener criticism than the cause of the disorder which may have been the haste necessary in the performance of something of vital importance to a patient, and nothing can convince the visiting lady that she is unjust in her severe condemnation. As a nurse was heard to remark; 'there is no use trying to explain. Her mind is already made up. Appearances are against me.' On the other hand, people outside hospitals are of the opinion that women on these boards are an absolute necessity, that they supply the lack which is so apparent where only professionals are banded together, that doctors and nurses are so absorbed in their own work that anything which has not a direct bearing on the case in which they are interested is of little moment to them. Therefore it often happens that while one may find the immediate surroundings of a patient in immaculate condition, beyond that things are quite the opposite, and disorder reigns supreme, and scant consideration is shewn to any one who is not a 'case,' or necessary to the 'case.' To attempt then to control these two opposite factions and dovetail their work so as to make a harmonious whole of it is no easy task, and when it is accomplished the result is a very strong combination hard to break, and ideal conditions for discipline and progression are created. One such board working harmoniously with its institutions is brought to remembrance to-day as an example of what such a body can do. This board was called into existence by one of our number since gone to her reward, the late lamented Miss Darche. This lady, called upon to undertake the duties of a Superintendent in a school where men politicians held sway, found there one woman, a society lady of wealth and culture whose advice was often taken on important matters connected with the school, indeed, who had been the means of securing Miss Darche's own appointment. This woman, among her

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