

But the hungry man is an angry man, and Nurses, being human, asked "for more," with the result that the control of the Nurses' Home was placed under the authority of the Matron whose interests are identical with those of the nurses—the departmental work in the Home being portioned out to trained nurse Assistants responsible to the Chief Nursing Officer. This is, without doubt, the only satisfactory system of management—and gives to matters domestic their relative value in hospital economy.

It is now becoming quite apparent that domestic science is the basis of trained nursing, and that in consequence the domestic department of a hospital will become a more and more invaluable asset in nurse training.

The management of the Nurses' Home is invaluable as training for Sisters and Matrons, and will be utilised extensively in the future for the post-graduate instruction of those nurses who desire to qualify themselves for these responsible positions.

This system obtains in the best managed American hospitals, as the Superintendents of Nurses are becoming keenly alive to its great importance.

I must, in justice, state that the system of dual control in matters nursing and domestic in America does not appear to cause the friction which it does in England, and without any exception, in every hospital I visited, the domestic comfort and the dietary of the nurses was excellent.

BENEFIT OF MEDICAL INFLUENCE.

One great benefit of medical influence in hospital management is the organization of the medical and surgical service. Within the last decade this has been perfected in a marvellous degree in the United States, and in every hospital to which is attached a medical school we find splendid Pathological Laboratories, a specialised Out-Patient Department, and a complete Operation Annexe—fine old hospitals have been renovated and extended up to date, and new hospitals built upon a thoroughly scientific plan—light, space, and fresh air have been utilised to the fullest extent, and spacious, well-lighted wards, with day-rooms, and innumerable balconies provided. The wards with tiled or polished floors, highly enamelled walls and ceilings, very little aseptic furniture, but few flowers and no ornaments may not be so "cosy" as those at home, but they are eminently practical and easily kept clean and free from septic matter. But the crowning glory of American hospitals are the Operating Blocks—these are of quite recent building—but are on much the same plan all over the States. The centre is usually a fine amphitheatre, walled and floored with marble, the seats composed of metal or marble, and fitted with strictly aseptic sur-

gical appliances all easily flushed antiseptically in a few minutes. In connection with this central theatre, are a complete surgical service, several smaller operating rooms, as many anæsthetic rooms, recovery wards, a supply room for preparation of dressings, a sterilising room, instrument room, scrub rooms for students and nurses, and a complete "toilet" department for the operating surgeons, including bath room, with shower, and an ample surgical "kit." To see a surgeon fully attired for business is a very novel sight—white trousers and coat, white cap, and shoes, hands and arms covered with india-rubber gloves; to say nothing of a gauze covering for his hirsute appendages should he wear a beard. One sceptical delegate said something about "a glorified cook," but low be it spoken. The nurses and students are also completely dressed in white, the latter with short sleeves, which have a cool and businesslike appearance.

The various clinics are severely specialised in the Out-patient Department, beautifully organised with every detail and appliance perfected, and to each hospital is attached an Ambulance Station which is, of course, on the telephone, and where motor rubber wheeled vehicles of the most modern construction, or equally fine horse ambulances are ready every hour of the day or night, to whirl out, and gather in accidents or urgent cases, and convey them with all care to the hospital door. The powerful "tearing" grey horses so largely used for ambulance and fire brigade work in America, are "indigenous to the soil," and most intelligent beasts—as quiet as lambs in the stall, and all fire and friction at the sound of the telephone bell. It is just a beautiful sight to see these animals all ready harnessed plunge forward to their places at either side of the pole, and in a few seconds' time clatter out of the station—away on mercy intent. They seem to know and love their grand humanitarian mission. E. G. F.

Summary of First Session to be concluded in next issue.

The League of St. Bartholomews' Nurses.

The following nurses, who have passed through the training school of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and obtained its certificate, have recently been elected members of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses: Mrs. Armitage (née Moorhouse), Miss Margaret Derrick, Miss E. Eyles, Miss Marianne Beck, Miss Georgina Walpole, Miss E. N. Elwin (Sister, University College Hospital), Miss Frances Harding (formerly Sister Darker), Miss Ethel Passingham, Miss Florence Douglas, Miss Mary Empson, and Miss Louie Fradd.

The Social Gathering of the League will be held on Saturday, December 7th.

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