

in the night or in the day, to go with the doctor, or in advance of him, to prepare the room, bed, and patient for her confinement. She goes equipped (when the surroundings are known to be poor and dirty), with protecting papers, clean bed linen, and an outfit for the expected baby, and always with antiseptics, brushes, ligatures, absorbent cotton, etc.

Before going out to such cases the student-nurse has been taught on the living model how to make proper preparations. She has been taught in lectures what to expect, and now in the lying-in room of patients too poor to employ fully trained nurses, she is taught by the physician in charge exactly how to be his helpful assistant and reliable lieutenant. During the full course student-nurses have from ten to twenty obstetric cases, often several during the same week. At most of these cases they stay only till after the labour is over and the mother and child made comfortable for their sleep. But always during the course the student-nurse has several obstetric cases from start to finish.

Besides this training in private midwifery practice, class instruction in obstetric nursing is also given in the still small maternity department of the Hospital.

The regular class instruction of the student-nurses occupies the first eighteen months or first half of the course. After that it is not so easy to describe their training. By terms of one or more months they serve as district nurses, operating room assistants, head nurses in the wards, and in the Hospital department for contagious diseases. They are also sent to cases, even outside the city, to serve under other physicians who are willing to co-operate with the management of the school in furthering the education of the student-nurses.

Although class instruction is no longer possible, still for all who can attend there is a weekly clinic at the Hospital, a weekly lecture (given in part by physicians from Boston and the neighbouring towns), or a conference at the school. Verbatim reports of these lectures are sent to nurses who could not attend, and upon these lectures and also upon selected text-books examinations are regularly held. All of these courses are open to graduate nurses, and besides there is provision at the Hospital for the reception, as visitors at a small fee, of such graduate nurses as desire to brush up their knowledge or to learn the latest methods of work. Every effort is made to increase the professional zeal of the Waltham nurses.

WHAT I SAW AT WALTHAM.

The new Home at Waltham is as bright inside as out, and built in a narrow block, with wings,

so that the sun can peep into every room at some time of the day, and serves as a home and school-house for fifty student nurses.

From the entrance Hall to the right are the reception room and offices and large dining-room, leading to the Winter and Summer Kitchens and Pantries. Here the student nurses were busy at their domestic duties, and when the tour of inspection was at an end, we were served with a most excellent lunch, as the result of their labours, rolls (reminding one of smiling *garçons* and *café au lait* in Paris), cutlets, succulent peas, a crisp salad, a dream of a *compôte* composed of bananas and oranges, served with angel cake, and fragrant chocolate. Quite delicious. The secret of that delectable *compôte* was whispered by Mrs. Worcester. Shred the bananas and oranges, sugar them, then pour over them the juice of one lemon, a large glass of claret, and *ice*.

To the left of the Hall is a Nurses' Parlour and a very fine lecture room, provided with a movable table attached to the right arm of each chair; a most comfortable contrivance for note-taking.

On the first floor the nurses' bedrooms are arranged with every regard to health and comfort, most of them face directly south, and all have open fireplaces, and some rooms, in the quietest part of the house have double doors so that their occupants can sleep after night work. On this floor also is placed the Preparation Room, where a number of nurses were busy as bees—one arranging bottles of sterilised milk by placing them in neat round tins, each labelled and ready for twenty individual babies, living in the district. Another fitting a surgeon's kit: in this bag, already sterilised, every necessary for surgical or medical practice was being neatly arranged, and numbers of medical men round about avail themselves of the nurses' skill and care in preparing their dressings and instruments for daily use. A third pupil was studying the Drug Store; a cupboard in which drugs and surgical dressings in constant use, were kept in a neat and speckless condition. Indeed, in this Preparation Room a vast amount of useful and practical work was being done, and lack of time alone compelled me to pass quickly through it—one might with advantage have spent a day therein.

SURFACE NURSING.

"Now you must come and see our Disinfecting and Surface Nursing Department," said Dr. Worcester, and away we trooped across the Court Yard and down a few steps into the basement of the tiny infirmary.

"What is surface nursing?" I enquired.

"Oh, just everything which appertains to the cleanliness and care of the hair, skin, and nails," he laughed, "bathing, disinfecting, shampooing,

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