

manicuring. In this department we have a sterilising-room, an undressing-room, bath and aseptic dressing-room, and a skilled attendant, and here pupils are taught the immense importance of cleanliness to physical fitness and personal comfort. Delicate and minute care of the person is not always impressed upon nurses in the training schools, with the result that many better-class patients complain that the nurse is clumsy in doing the hair, and not always sufficiently particular in attending to the hands and feet. Surface nursing it quite an art."

Indeed it is as it is practised at Waltham.

Later we drove to the little hospital beautifully situated at the top of a hill, with a lovely view on every side, and found everything dainty to a fine degree, and where the nurses are carefully taught as far as facilities permit.

The question at issue between the large nurse training schools in the States, and the Waltham school is, that the former claim that the latter is wrong in training pupils in district and private nursing before giving them a complete two or three years' term of training in the wards. This, of course, is my own opinion, but I am also of opinion that the truly fine pioneer work done at Waltham in preliminary education of nurses, in domestic science, and in encouraging resource and individuality, is only now being realised and appreciated by the Superintendents of Nursing in America. It is good work, by some means what is best must be taken, and the other left.

E. G. F.

The East London Nursing Society.

The Annual Meeting of the East London Nursing Society, which was held at the Mansion House on Tuesday afternoon, was well attended, and the result should be an increased interest in the work of the Society. Its claims were urged by the Bishop of Stepney, Mr. Alderman Mann, J.P., Dr. W. J. Hadley, and the Rev. H. C. Dimsdale, Vicar of Christ Church, St. George's-in-the-East, who gave an interesting account of the work done by the nurses in his parish, and of the comforts their visits gave to the sick and dying. One woman dying of a painful disease told him that the nurse's daily visits were the brightest spot in her life. All the Matrons and nurses were present in their neat uniforms, and during the meeting made a collection for the funds of the Society. The pitiable stories of poverty, sickness, and suffering told in the golden chamber of the Mansion House, where the costly lustres reflected the multitude of gleaming electric lights, afforded a study in contrasts for the reflection to the thoughtful.

Notes on Practical Nursing.

THE DISINFECTION OF DWELLINGS BY FORMALDEHYDE GAS.

In the issue of the NURSING RECORD, dated March 1st, there appeared a summary of Professor F. C. Robinson's recommendations as to the disinfection of dwellings by formaldehyde, etc. This method has been lately employed very extensively at the National Sanatorium for Consumption, Bournemouth, and the process was a most interesting one from a nurse's point of view.

The Managing Committee of the National Sanatorium carefully considered various methods of disinfection, and the germicidal properties of different agents; after much deliberation it was decided to disinfect by means of formaldehyde gas, using for the purpose the Kny-Scheerer Co.'s Improved Formol Gas Generator, an American patent machine, which had to be procured in the United States.

Messrs. Bridge and Co., Chemists, Bournemouth, accordingly imported a machine, and in a few days disinfected the whole of the wards and corridors in the Institution, a cubic space of 207.524ft.

The machine consists of a light portable engine, heated by a petroleum lamp, which generates under great pressure pure formaldehyde gas from a liquid solution of formalin, 4 per cent. strength.

The engine itself stands outside the room to be disinfected, into which the gas is conveyed by means of a pipe passing through the keyhole of the door. As soon as the required quantity of gas has been given off, the pipe is withdrawn from the keyhole, the latter is immediately sealed up, and the apparatus is ready for work again elsewhere.

It is calculated that sufficient gas is evolved from 16 fl. oz. of solution for 1,000 cubic feet of space. The boiler of the engine holds 40 fl. oz. of solution, and the engine requires to be kept heated for an hour to evolve the whole of the gas from this quantity of the liquid. It is therefore easy to calculate the length of time required to charge any particular room.

The gas is perfectly dry and so does not damage books, pictures, etc. The dryness is ensured by the addition of calcium chloride to the solution; this raises its boiling point to 115 deg. Cent. The gas, therefore, being generated at a temperature of 95 deg. Cent. is driven, in a dry state, into the room before any steam is given off from the solution.

The gas has a peculiar characteristic odour and exercises a very powerful effect upon the eyes and mucous membrane, causing intense smarting and

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