

one patient only. The large verandahs—or "Liegehallen," as they are called—of course also face the south. Here the patients lie for a goodly portion of the day on adjustable wicker chairs covered with hair mattresses. Each patient is provided with a sleeping sack made of sail-cloth, lined with blankets (much like those used by our soldiers on the veldt), also woollen caps covering the ears, and wollen gloves. A screen is placed between every two chairs. This is the idea of a well-known German specialist, as it prevents the infection being carried from one patient to another, and by this means also complete privacy is obtained. At Belzig there is, curiously enough, neither class nor sex distinction. The occupants of the free beds are on an equal footing with those paying the maximum rate, 35s. a week. Male and female patients take their meals together, not at separate tables, but just as a vacancy arises, as at any table d'hôte at an hotel. This arrangement, says the writer, strikes one as quite out of keeping with the national character, particularly when one remembers that the patients comprise most classes, from the impecunious officer down to the working man. However, it works admirably in practice, I am assured by the powers that be, although I have my doubts how it would answer in England.

The treatment of the patient varies, naturally, and an individual regime is prescribed. A hot or cold "rub down" in the bedroom usually begins the day. Then follows the morning coffee at 7.30, with rolls and butter. Directly after the douches begin, which vary from tepid to cold. Then rest, luncheon at 10, and gentle exercise till dinner. The writer continues: I had dinner with the patients, an excellently chosen meal in keeping with the taste of the German lower middle class. It consisted of soup, joint, vegetables, stewed fruit, pudding, and coffee. Light beer is much drunk. The evening meal at 7 is not varied, and consists always of soup, cold or hot meat, or sometimes eggs. On Friday fish is served instead of meat for the midday meal. Exercise is quite a matter of individual need. To each patient is given a small map of the grounds, and marked in colour is the distance he may go. Some of the paths are much steeper than others, and consequently the daily round has to be carefully considered. Dr. Moller is much against industrial attempts of any kind, as an awkward movement when the lung is in the process of healing may undo all the good the rest and open air have effected. During the last period of the "cure" gentle gymnastics are sometimes prescribed, but even this is considered somewhat risky, owing to the difficulty of absolute control, and too much energy on the part of a patient might be disastrous.

Our Foreign Letter.

FROM TASMANIA.



Dear Editor,
—It may interest you to know that for some weeks past the Hobart press has given much pub-

licity to the dispute between the Hobart Hospital Committee and that of the Launceston Hospital over the official report sent by Miss Milne, the Lady Superintendent of the latter institution, and presented at the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Buffalo last September, and printed in the NURSING RECORD in December last, under the title of "Nursing in Tasmania." The House Surgeon (Dr. Lines) of the Hobart General Hospital brought the matter before the Committee as he considered it reflected unfairly on the management of the hospital, as regards the training of nurses, and he suggested that the matter should be inquired into. The article alleged that the nurses had training in the wards of the hospital, but implied that there was no practical teaching, and Dr. Lines detailed the curriculum of lectures by himself with demonstrations by the Matron, with the subjects the nurses had to study and be examined upon. The statement that there was no test examination for the nurses was, he said, untrue.

Drs. Butler and Wolfhagen then made most outrageous personal attacks upon Miss Milne—which had nothing to do with the question—accusing her of "bossing" and "puffing"—and, in fact, the usual medical style of "going for" a woman who has the courage of her opinions, where medical men are in authority where nurses are concerned, as they are on the Hobart Hospital Committee. Anyway the upshot of the whole thing has been that, in reply to the attack, Miss Milne states that when invited to answer the questions *re* Nursing in Tasmania for presentation to the International Council of Nurses, she wrote to the Matron of the Hobart General Hospital asking what examinations and what standard probationers had to pass in order to obtain certificates, and says, "I received no reply to my note of enquiry, but obtained the information from a source that I considered thoroughly reliable," and adds that if inaccurate she will be pleased to make the necessary corrections "if the Hobart officials will be good enough to furnish me with the facts."

The Hobart officials state they received no

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)