

patients, and, consequently, the poor person, who can afford no *pour-boire*, gets the minimum of attention. That is not to say that the nurse is not sometimes very devoted, sitting for hours, motionless, by the bedside of the dying; but that is the exception rather than the rule, and such a duty is not required of her. The patients are more often left to die entirely unattended, and without the ministering angel who watches by the bedside in the hospitals of Great Britain and America. Sometimes very painful stories reach one of the callous neglect of the ward attendants.

“From the lips of a man who had been in one of the hospitals I heard an account of his experiences. In the bed next to him was a patient who was in the last extremity. Seeing his condition, my informant called to the male attendant that the man was dying. ‘Let him die,’ said the attendant, and the poor fellow shortly after breathed his last. The body remained in the bed all night without any screen about it; indeed, that appears to be an act of delicate consideration that is rarely thought of even in the most distressing cases. In a hospital outside Paris the patient’s food for the day, including the milk, is placed in a locker by the patient’s bed early in the morning and left there all day. Indeed, there is an extraordinary lack of consideration for the sufferer’s feelings in most of the arrangements. If it were not for the extreme skill of the French surgeons, it is difficult to see how any of the patients would recover, as they owe nothing to good nursing. The medical man to whom I have referred has become impressed with these facts, and he is trying to induce women of a superior class in France to embrace a profession which, elsewhere, enjoys the highest consideration and makes the greatest demands upon the devotion and trained intelligence of its members. The first step would be to insist upon the organisation of a corps of nurses, wearing a uniform, and sustained by a sense of the dignity and true charity of their occupation.”

We recommend this great work for the national welfare to the able editor of the *Fronde* newspaper. Let her interest the women of France in the necessity for organising a system of professional nursing. Women are so business-like in France that we feel sure, once they grasp the fact that in nursing affairs they are leagues behind the English-speaking peoples, they will bring their bright intelligence to bear upon the matter, and speed ahead. They, of course, have to grapple with the religious difficulty, as until lately the untrained nun has had entire care of the sick. The nun must either be trained in the modern methods of scientific nursing, or be superseded by a well-educated class of lay women. At present, nurses in France are recruited from an undesirable class of women.

Reflections.



Under the presidency of Mr. J. Cloudesley, Chairman of the Port of London Sanitary Authority, who was accompanied by the Mayor of Gravesend and others, some new wards were last week opened at the Port Sanitary Hospital at Denton, Gravesend. Mr. Cloudesley dedicated the new wing to suffering seafaring folk who entered the port and needed treatment. It was, he said, an open door for all nationalities, and would prove a haven of rest to many a suffering sailor.

The Committee of the Suffolk General Hospital at Bury St. Edmunds, who recently received a substantial and unexpected legacy, decided to spend this upon the interior of the building, and more especially upon an urgent need of the hospital—a new and perfectly-appointed operating theatre. This is now completed—the theatre with adjoining surgeons’ and anaesthetising rooms, with fittings, and other improvements having cost something over £2,500—and the opening ceremony will soon take place. Below the theatre is a recreation-room for the nurses, which is very handsomely decorated and furnished, and a new piano, for which the money was collected by the Matron, Miss Mary Harris, adds to its attractions. Electric light has also been installed throughout the building.

A horse ambulance is being provided at Birmingham for the conveyance of injured persons to the hospital.

New operating theatres were opened last week at the Bradford Infirmary. The floors are of an entirely new strawberry-coloured material, which takes a fine polish.

A new Hospital for Children with Hip Disease, erected at a cost of £12,000 on Tubs Hill, at Sevenoaks, has been opened by Lady Norah Hodgson.

The new Seamen’s Hospital at Cardiff is progressing, but it was reported at a recent meeting of the Finance Committee that the overdraft at the bank is now £2,000, and it was agreed to issue a further appeal to those who had promised subscriptions but had not paid them in. So good an object should not be allowed to want for funds.

The Young Men’s Christian Associations of Colorado have united in an effort to establish a “health farm” for convalescent consumptives, to be administered in co-operation with the National Hospital for Consumptives at Denver. An unimproved 60-acre tract of land 60 miles west of Denver has been purchased. One-third of this tract is above irrigation, and particularly well suited for the location of buildings. The residents will use for sleeping purposes tent cottages, which are deemed the most desirable and healthful for men with incipient lung trouble. It is the plan of the Committee to charge each resident a moderate but definite sum for the tent cottage, meals, laundry, and other privileges of the settlement.

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