

brooch in the form of the Maltese cross. Save this one article there is no difference between the dress of the head nurses and juniors. It seemed to me that, like some of the English hospitals, there was in these yards a sort of homely cheerfulness, which our severely aseptic wards at home often lack. Each ward had many green plants, and here and there some patient had her canary-bird in its cage. An upright piano stands in the middle of the long wards, and when one of the nurses plays or sings there is music for the patients in the quiet hours.

The nurses' hours are longer—eleven in a day—but the staff in a ward is large, and I am sure they do their work in a more unhurried way than we. The proportion of nurses to a ward, counting those only who are actually doing up the patients, not those in diet kitchen and operating-room work or head nurse, is about one to four patients.

I saw an arrangement for keeping patients raised off of the bed which was new to me, and it may be so to some others. There were, first, attached to the bed slender iron uprights and side-pieces, like the skeleton of a bed. This was all adjustable, and to the side-pieces were hooked, with eyelet-holes and tapes, the firmly-made ends of broad bands of fine canvas, which passed under the patient's body from side to side and which, when made taut, raised him from the bed as much or little as desired, this being regulated by a turning crank and pulley. The bed itself was made in the usual way, and a large water-pillow covered all the part below the patient's buttocks and spine. Large, soft pads of cotton were laid between his body and the supporting bands, and he had plenty of pillows. In this position the patient, who had previously suffered excruciating pain, lay suspended in an easy curve which could be altered by loosening or tightening the fastenings at the side, and which afforded him complete relief, as well as entirely preventing bed-sores and allowing the most perfect cleanliness to be maintained.

After the three years' course is completed, the nurses here may, as in so many foreign hospitals, remain in the service of the hospital on a moderate salary as long as they desire or are desirable. I cannot but think this an admirable arrangement which might well be adopted in American hospitals, lessening the number of new probationers every year, and giving a feeling of more permanency and steadiness. If a nurse loses her health in the hospital service, even after two years' work, she receives a pension from the city, for the Wilhelmina is a municipal hospital. This is not enough to live on, but enough to pay for lodging and, probably, clothing.

Nurses who desire private duty may work independently, or they may join the Association of the White Cross, which gives them a fixed salary and provides them with cases—but not with a home—or they may join a co-operative association, through which they obtain cases and receive practically their earnings—also living at their own expense.

A successful private duty nurse can, with regular work, earn what corresponds to 480 to 600 dollars a year. Living expenses are less than with us, yet not enough so as to make this equal to the salary of the American.

There is an excellent district nursing association in Amsterdam.

Preparations and Inventions.

NESTLÉ'S MILK.

As we pointed out last week, the multitude of new food preparations which are constantly being placed upon the market makes it possible that old and well-tried productions may be forgotten. We are reminded of this fact by an inquiry just received from a valued correspondent asking for particulars as to Nestlé's milk. As the information may be useful to others also amongst our readers, we have much pleasure in recalling facts to which we have in previous years alluded in our columns. Nestlé's milk deserves, perhaps more than any other brand of condensed milk, the fullest public and professional confidence. Perfectly fresh milk is brought to the Nestlé factory from the 1500 surrounding farms every day; it is at once sterilised, condensed, sweetened or unsweetened as the case may be, and put into tins; so that twenty-four hours after its delivery at the factory, it has passed through every stage of the necessary operation which, as the experience of many years has proved, enables Nestlé's milk to keep fresh in any climate. Every department of the factory is kept in the most scrupulous and beautiful state of cleanliness; the milk is always most carefully examined, and every possible precaution is taken to ensure that the 40,000 cows which produce it are always in perfect health; whilst the method of its condensation obviates any danger of impurities entering the milk in the factory. It is, then, as we have said, the best condensed milk which is at present procurable, and trained nurses can have the utmost confidence in using it whenever such a preparation is required or prescribed for their patients.

SANITAS.

We are often asked by nurses which is the best disinfectant solution for ordinary use, and have no hesitation in answering that the Sanitas preparations are, all things considered, those which can be most generally and usefully recommended. In fluid or powder form, they are so easily adaptable to every ordinary requirement, they are so easily portable, and, above all, are so cleanly in their use, that they surpass in these important particulars many other and more highly-vaunted preparations which are either cumbersome to carry about, or cause disagreeable stains to the clothing and hands by their employment. The excellent fumigators prepared by the Sanitas Company, of Bethnal Green, E., have more than once been most favourably noticed in our columns, as the most effective, cleanly, and cheap method of thoroughly disinfecting rooms; and the Sanitas soaps are highly valued for their cleansing and fragrant properties by all surgeons and nurses who have used them.

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