

Detailed descriptions of the entertainments, which were planned and carried out on a very generous scale, would occupy more space than is afforded us. From the delightful luncheon at the Hotel Shenley, given by the groups of Alumnae Associations before referred to, an entertainment unique in idea and beautiful in expression, to the final reception at the Homœopathic Hospital, given by the Trustees and Ladies' Association, there was hardly an hour of any day outside of sessions that was not pleasantly provided for by the forethought and ingenuity of the President and those associated with her in preparing for the Convention. The reception on Wednesday night by the Pittsburg Training-School Association was given in the beautiful ball-room of the Hotel Shenley, lavishly decorated for the occasion with palms and plants. An orchestra provided an abundance of music, and the utmost hospitality prevailed.

The banquet on Thursday evening, arranged by some of the hospital superintendents, was a most sumptuous entertainment. A large number of guests were invited, among them a good many medical men. The decorations were beautiful, the menu elaborate, the toasts and responses enlivening, and nothing was omitted which could afford pleasure to those present. Of the visits to Homestead and other interesting places, it can only be said that they were intensely interesting to the members, who found in them events long to be remembered. Members of the Society carried away with them at the close of the Convention memories of three days of good and stirring work, and of much pleasant entertainment and genial hospitality.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:—

President, Miss Georgia M. Nevins, Garfield Hospital, Washington, D.C.

First Vice-President, Miss Ida F. Giles, Homœopathic Hospital, Pittsburg, Pa.

Second Vice-President, Miss Jennie Cottle, Minnequa Hospital, Pueblo, Col.

Secretary, Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Treasurer, Miss Anna L. Alline, Teachers' College, Columbia University, N.Y.

Auditor, Miss Mary A. Samuel, Roosevelt Hospital, New York.

Councillors, Miss Sophia F. Palmer, Rochester, N.Y.; and Miss Isabel McIsaac, Chicago, Ill.

M. A. NUTTING,  
Secretary.

The trained nurses of Minnesota have taken steps to form a State Association. The initiative was taken by the Ramsey County Graduate Nurses' Association, with the result that the outlook for a strong State Association is very favourable.

## Practical Points.

Indiarubber tiling and india-rubber floor coverings are coming greatly into favour. This covering is regarded by experts as ideal though expensive. It is noiseless, durable, elastic, non-slipping, and sanitary. Any combination of colours can be used, so with discretion rubber tiling is capable of artistic effects. The *Indiarubber Journal*, whose next issue is to contain pictures of London houses where such tiling is used, says it presents the nearest approach to Grecian and Athenian floors. Unhappily, though just now there is a temporary diminution in the cost of indiarubber, prices are stiff, and there is no prospect that the former cheap rates will ever be reached again.

Dr. W. M. Hartshorn, in the *Medical Record*, records a departure in infant feeding at the Nursery and Child's Hospital, New York, which

will be of interest to nurses. All infants over seven months old were given stronger food than plain milk, especially stale bread soaked in boiling water until thoroughly softened, the water poured off and a cup of milk added, and the mixture boiled for three or four minutes, cooled, sweetened, and fed to the baby. At first one teaspoonful was given once a day, and the amount gradually increased until in ten days one to three ounces daily were given. It was fed between the bottle hours, and never more than half an ounce at a time. If curds appeared in the stools or it disagreed in any way it was discontinued and castor-oil or calomel given. This is a return to the pap of earlier times. Children from eighteen months to four years had plain bread and milk once a day. For breakfast farina and milk, for dinner boiled rice with meat-broth over it, for supper bread and milk, the older children bread spread with plain jelly. During the fruit season these have an orange at noon. Since giving the extra food to the infants and younger children there has been a marked increase in their weight.

It has been shown by clinical observations of later years that the usual liquid diet given in typhoid is not essential, and Dr. W. E. Robert-

son (*Philadelphia Medical Journal*) concludes from recent statistics and his own cases that such patients may be given quite a variety of foods not only without harm, but with decided advantage, both as to their condition during the attack, and as a means of effecting prompt restitution of their physical vigour. Milk is an excellent food, but, beside the tendency to form tough curds, patients frequently refuse to take it. In 300 autopsies the author states that he has never found solid masses in the small bowel, no matter what diet the patient received, unless milk constituted the bulk of the food. It is apt to form putty-like curds throughout the alimentary tract. A more liberal diet will serve, the writer believes, to diminish the number of deaths from asthenia and intercurrent affections usually caused by the invasion of the weakened organism. As for the third cause of death, erosion of a large vessel or perforated ulcer, it is usually agreed that a liberal diet does not increase the liability to these accidents, but, on the contrary, rather tends otherwise by increasing the resistance of the individual.

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