

consideration be given to nurses, and make the age at which they could retire and claim superannuation fifty to fifty-five, instead of sixty, on the same lines as the Army and Navy Nurses' pension scheme was arranged. Very few nurses, it was urged, could hold on until they were sixty, and therefore they did not join the Fund. Nurses had to live in the wards with the patients alternately night and day, seven days a week, and in the Eastville Union fourteen or sixteen hours daily. Therefore very few women could remain in the work until they were sixty; the patients would suffer if they did so. The Chairman thought the subject was one that might with advantage be forwarded to the National Association for their consideration, and he proposed that this should be done. We agree entirely with the views expressed by the nurses. Ward nursing at sixty years of age should not be permitted under any Government scheme.

In no country are children better cared for than in France; in fact, French children are—so far as their physical needs are concerned—the objects of greatest solicitude. This being so, it is only in the nature of things that institutions for tuberculous children should be both numerous and well-managed. In France there are hospitals solely for tuberculous children containing 4,443 beds. The city of Paris supports two such hospitals, both of which are situated at the seaside. There is besides a charitable organisation, "L'Œuvre des Enfants Tuberculeux," which supports in the neighbourhood of Paris three free hospitals for children suffering from consumption. The building at Ormeson is for those in the incipient stage, at from three to ten years of age, and has 128 beds. At Villier-sur-Marne consumptive boys are received from ten to seventeen years of age, and there is accommodation for over 200. There is also a hospital for tuberculous girls at Noisy.

The *American Journal of Nursing* says:—

"Harvard's endowment for a chair of theoretical and practical nursing seems to be an assured fact. We hear rumours that this distinguished professorship is eagerly sought for, and will probably be obtained by one of New England's most brilliant medical men. As it has been so generally conceded that nursing can only be taught by nurses, as a matter of simple justice this chair should be filled by one of the many able members of the nursing profession who has proven her ability both to organise and to teach. We understand that Harvard's nursing department is exclusively for medical students and not for nurses, as we first supposed, and the kind of nursing instruction that such students especially need can only be obtained from nurses. We shall await developments at Harvard with great interest."

The Hospital World on the Continent.

(Continued from page 399.)

Another most charming Italian hospital is the Ospedale degli Innocenti, in Florence. It is really a home for foundlings, managed on a scientific basis and with provision for sick and premature babes.

As some of the Italian hospitals are open to much criticism, I shall describe some of the good ones first, and the hospitals of Florence seem to be very well kept and managed, both from the medical and general standpoint.

The Foundlings Hospital is managed by Sisters of Charity, and the babes have foster-mothers, except, of course, such as are ordered artificial feeding by the physicians.

It would be hard to find a place of the kind more immaculately and beautifully kept, or babes more exquisitely cleanly and sweet from the skin out. Their beds were spotless all through, and we inspected them down to the mattress.

The wards are very attractive, the beds being oval baskets like those of the infirmary in New York, but supported on an iron upright and small frame instead of brackets. All clean diapers were kept in a hot-air closet in the wall.

In a large dressing-room was a big, square table, and in the middle of it was a fountain fixture with faucet, worked by pedals underneath, surgical wash-stand fashion, from which flowed, when needed, a stream of warm boracic-acid solution. The table was padded and covered with rubber sheeting, and sloped on all sides towards the centre, where the stream drained off. Beside the fountain stood a jar of pledgets of cotton for the eyes. It seemed to me as excellent a bit of detail as I had ever seen. I think, too, I have never seen anywhere a more generous amount of cubic air-space per bed than was allowed to these babies.

The floors of this hospital were of dark-red, square, brick tiles, filled in some way so as to be quite smooth. The buildings are rather old, but charming architecturally, with the *Lucca della Robbia* plaques on the front, and with the large central court.

I confess it was a mystery to me how this institution was, apparently, so faultlessly kept. If the foster-mothers and servant-nurses actually do the work under the supervision of the Sisters, then they both deserve compliments. It appeared, too, as if the physicians must be very exact in their requirements, and as if a good deal of the credit must be due to them for the details.

There, of course, are all the details of asepsis in the care of the eyes, and the very minute and thorough methods practised for avoiding specific infections, of which Miss Turton told me.

An admirable modern hospital in Florence is the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)