

on the first day of disease, and among those that came under treatment on the second the mortality has not exceeded 5.4 per cent., while among those that came under treatment on the third day and later the mortality is much higher. These facts show how eminently curable a disease diphtheria is if treated with antitoxin early enough, and how large a number of lives would be saved if all the cases could be put under antitoxin treatment on the first or second day of disease.

CRÈCHES FOR POPLAR.—The humanitarian spirit which animates many of those engaged in Poor Law work is especially manifest in Poplar. The last instance is the passing of a resolution to establish a crèche in each of the three parishes of the union, to assist poor women with young children, the daily care of whom debars the mothers from obtaining work.

THE STANDARDISATION OF DISINFECTANTS.—Steps are being taken to obtain from Parliament the standardisation of disinfectants, but the effort does not meet with universal approval. The Sanitas Company, Ltd., who are practically manufacturers of all kinds of disinfectants, are of opinion that it is absolutely impossible to standardise commercial disinfectants as a class, or even to compare, in a thorough sense, such a large number of entirely dissimilar preparations, differing as they do not only in their chemical constitution, but also in their modes of action and their individual properties. The company holds, further, that there is neither need nor call for any standardisation, and if such a scheme should ever be carried into legislative effect it would be against the spirit of the people of the country, for it would unduly restrain trade and operate unfairly by favouring certain manufacturers at the expense of others.

A NEW FEVER HOSPITAL FOR LEEDS.—The Lord Mayor of Leeds will inaugurate a new fever hospital on the city's behalf on the 29th inst., on the Marston Hill estate, halfway between the city boundary and the village of Seacroft. There will be 240 beds allotted to scarlet fever patients, sixty to diphtheria, 104 to enteric fever, and forty-eight to other diseases, making a total in all of 452 beds.

THE RUSSIAN WOUNDED.—According to a Reuter telegram to St. Petersburg, the total number of wounded under treatment at Harbin exceeds 35,000. The town is transformed into one great hospital, and the churches and theatres are full of invalids brought in from Liao-yang.

WOMEN'S MEDICAL EDUCATION IN RUSSIA.—Noticeable encouragement is being given to the development of women's medical education in Russia. Touching the enlarged scope of the Women's Medical Institute in St. Petersburg, the *Novoe Vremya* says that the first shall be last and the last first, for two professorships of midwifery and gynaecology are to be allocated to that institute, besides separate chairs for—(1) bacteriology, (2) rhinology and laryngology, and (3) epizootiology. Of the three last-named there is not a chair in the medical faculties of the universities, and of midwifery and gynaecology there is but one. The *Russki Vrach* says, in relation thereto, it must be hoped that the universities will be similarly treated: for in the contrary case it would be a clear injustice to establish for women a medical education superior to that provided for men.

Our Foreign Letter.

IN AN ITALIAN HOSPITAL.

(Pages from an Englishwoman's Diary.)

(Continued from page 218, Vol. XXXII.)

February 29th.—We said good-bye to S. Giovanni to-day for a month. It was quite sad leaving Sala



Folchi and all its patients, and the dear Suore. They told Msa. G. that they were so unhappy at our leaving, and I believe they really mean it,

for it has made a difference having our pupils to do so much work as "extras" and take many things off the Suore, who are so often overworked.

March 1st.—First day at S. Giacomo. Clotilde and Virginia came in the morning, were presented to Prof. Postempski, and the former taken in the operating room. They have had surgical experience at S. Giovanni, or I would not have risked it. Clotilde behaved with quiet self-possession, holding a basin of swabs. The Chief asked her once if it upset her seeing operations, but, as it evidently did not, they took her for granted, and were all serious and nice with her. No Suora was allowed in the room, as they do not wear the "regulation" white pinafore (*veste bianca*), which covers from neck to feet, nor will they turn up sleeves above elbow and disinfect forearm.

Virginia went to the dressings, and also was quite satisfactory, helping very deftly to hold patients, or hand what was asked for, as there were three surgeons working part of the time, and only one male infermiere. The surgeons were as serious and polite as possible, which made it all easier—for it is rather a plunge to them, such rows of men and boys.

Elvira is with Postempski's patients in the afternoon, and Virginia and Marietta with Prof. Capello's. The Suore were as kind and helpful as possible to us. It is the same Order as that at S. Giovanni; so they have evidently had good reports of our girls from their *consorelle* up there.

March 2nd.—Two small boys were operated on, and the Professor said I might put our pupils as "specials." They are charming with children, I find; quite firm in carrying out orders, but so bright and *motherly*. Clotilde, Marietta, and Virginia are really very good nurses; were they in any country they would hold their own. And Elvira would be nurse-like too, were she not still more *nun-like*; so serious, in fact, that one of the doctors asked if she were not English! Antoinetta I did well to leave at S. Giovanni, for, though always amiable, she is the antipodes of "reliable" (that word untranslatable in Italian!), and, as I cannot be present everywhere at once, I must be able to trust my pupils not to discredit the school. I hear that she has written to the Committee to complain of not being taken to S. Giacomo (we had a meeting this afternoon), but they voted that it would be "unwise to change any decision of the Directrice," and the President will send for her and explain what a wrong thing it was to complain of her teacher. As I do not wish her to come to

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