

indeed is the hospital variety, causing much embarrassment to the hapless attendants.

"Now then, old man," says a breezy surgeon to a small youth, whose hair, having been at his entrance under treatment for Pharaoh's third plague, stands up in all directions. "What has Nurse been doing to you, my son?"

"Catchin' dickies," responds the infant, in shrill and awfully distinct treble.

"What?" says the astounded young man. "What on earth does he mean, Nurse?"

And the blushing pro. has to explain.

The other day I drew on slates for sundry of the babes—prominent amongst them a child whose short life had been almost entirely spent in hospital, who asked for a "'ouse" to be sketched on his slate.

I sketched a house to the best of my ability, and he inspected it critically.

"You ain't drored no lav'try," he said, reproachfully.

I hurriedly added a lean-to at one end of the building, thinking no more could be required of an architect, but the hospital instinct was too strong in the child.

"Now the men ain't got none *their* end," he wailed, and I had to add another lean-to at the other end before the child expressed himself satisfied.

Greatly do they love flowers, these children, and keen is the competition for a bunch to be placed on their lockers. In the summer they deprecate Matron's marigold bed, but in the winter a bunch of flowers causes great excitement. "Put 'em by me, Nuss, won't yer," says Maggie.

"I'se a good b'y" squeaks Bobbie. "Give me a yose, Nurse," and they have each to have a flower or words ensue.

"Mrs. Gumidge" was another character of the "babies" who rise most distinctly to my mind. For weeks he wept daily tears salt and many (except when shouting merrily at play) into handkerchiefs with a prodigious black border. Iron bars (of a cot) did certainly not make a cage for "Mrs. G.," for a nurse entering the ward suddenly had frequent visions of a hurried gymnastic performance and a small youth huddling into tumbled bedclothes, and stern reproof had to be administered, though, after all, one cannot be very stern with these atoms of aggravating and lovable humanity.

### International Nursing News.

Miss Dock's brilliant report of the meeting of the International Council of Nurses, at Berlin, which appeared in this journal in July, has already appeared in the *American Journal of Nursing*, the official organ of all the leading Nurses' Societies in the United States; in *Una*, the official organ of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association; and in *Nosokomos*, a progressive Dutch nursing paper. Sister Karll has also had much of it appear in such papers as are read by German nurses, so that the aims of the Council have been given wide publicity and much encouraging sympathy from various quarters of the globe has reached us. Why wait for another five years before another "merry meeting" ask various friends?

### Nursing Echoes.

\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



The forthcoming Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, to be held at York from November 7th to 11th, should prove interesting to nurses. The first day is to be devoted to the discussion of Hygiene. Papers will be read and discussed under the following titles:—Practical Hygiene for Teachers and Managers of Schools; The Teaching of Hygiene in Schools; The Laying-out of Towns; The Consideration of By-Laws relating to the Housing Question; The Alleged Deterioration of Physique.

Some day, let us hope, the N.U.W.W. will find time for a Nursing Day. It would be very enlightening to the general public, which is still very apathetic and ignorant concerning the conditions under which thousands of its daughters learn how to nurse the sick. The fact that the mother influence is almost entirely absent in the management of the training-schools for nurses is one of the most extraordinary anomalies in women's position in this country.

Next month Miss Georgina Hill, the valiant champion of women's right to participate in the management of hospitals, will address the Women's Institute on the subject of "Women on Hospital Boards." Until women refuse to give financial support to hospitals which exclude them from participation in the management, the present preposterous restrictions will continue.

The arrangements of the maternity ward at the Kensington Infirmary are unique of their kind, and a description of them will therefore be of interest to our readers, especially to that increasing number who are interested in this branch of work.

The block for the maternity patients comprises two wards, each containing ten beds. Attached to both wards is a labour room having two beds and all the necessary appliances. By the left-hand side of each bed in the general ward is a cot, as the custom which formerly obtained in maternity homes of allowing the infant to sleep with the mother is falling into general disuse. The beds for the mothers are filled with wood-fibre, which appears an excellent material for the purpose, being clean, free from fluff, and hygienic. One such bed is in the

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