

## Appointments.

### MATRONS.

Miss Leavis has been appointed Matron of the Cameron Hospital, West Hartlepool. She was trained at the Royal Hospital, Belfast, and the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth, and has held the positions of Nurse at the Fever Hospital, New-townards, Senior Nurse of the Hartlepool Nursing Guild, Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Wigan, and Matron of a private hospital at West Hartlepool.

Miss Helena Atthill has been appointed Lady Matron of the Lüftkur Sanatorium. She was trained at the Middlesex Hospital and the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, and holds the L.O.S. certificate. Miss Atthill has held the positions of Night Sister at the Stafford Infirmary, Sister at Monsall Fever Hospital, Matron to Dover Hospital, and Lady Superintendent to the Invalid Home at Davos.

### ASSISTANT MATRONS.

Miss Edith Amy Tucker has been appointed Second Assistant Matron at the Fulham Infirmary, London. She was trained at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, in which institution she has held the position of Ward Sister, Theatre Sister, and Night Superintendent.

Miss L. Harris has been appointed Assistant Matron at the City Hospital North, Liverpool. She was trained at the General Infirmary, Stockport, and at Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester. She has recently held the position of Sister at the City Hospital North.

### SISTER.

Miss Florence Harper has been appointed Sister at the City Hospital North, Liverpool. She was trained at the Mill Road Infirmary, Liverpool.

### CHARGE NURSE.

Miss Annie Oakes Waller has been appointed Charge Nurse at the Hackney Union Infirmary. She was trained at St. George's Infirmary, Fulham Road, W., and has worked as a private nurse at the Southsea Nursing Institute. She has also been Charge Nurse at Portsmouth Parish Infirmary, Staff Nurse at Luton Isolation Hospital, and Nurse at the Lewes Union Infirmary.

### NURSES.

Miss Bertha Owen has been appointed Nurse in connection with the Up-Country Nursing Association for Europeans in India. She was trained at St. John's Hospital, Lewisham, and St. John's Maternity Home, Chelsea, and has been Charge Nurse at the Hexham Infirmary. She has also had experience in private nursing.

### QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

The undermentioned ladies have been provisionally appointed Staff Nurses in the above Service:— Miss Kate Coxon, Miss Ernestine Eardley, Miss Frances Amy Lawrence Smith, Miss Florence Nellie Roberts,

## Some Studies in Asepsis.\*

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In an autoclave in another institution I saw a number of sponge-jars with their lids in place. I ventured to open one of them, and found that the cover fitted so tightly that some little force was necessary for its removal. I asked the attendant if the sponges therein contained were to be sterilised by steam or by dry heat, and the answer was "steam"; but it was obvious that the steam could not gain access to the interior of the jar, from which, moreover, the contained air could not escape. I received permission to test the matter practically. The contents of the jar were replaced by a number of sponges, which I infected with a twenty-four hours' old culture of *Staphylococcus pyogenes aureus*. The cover was then put on and the whole was subjected to the routine process. Cultures of the sponges were afterwards made in sterile bouillon and incubated for twenty-four hours at 37 deg. C. The results were positive; sterilisation had not been effected.

On the other hand, in some hospitals, the sterilisation of dressings and sponges is carried to an unnecessary degree of thoroughness, which involves wasting much valuable time. I refer to fractional sterilisation. Fractional sterilisation of such materials as milk and culture media is necessary, on account of the presence of sporing organisms in a fluid rich in nutriment. The ordinary temperatures employed destroy the bacteria, but the spores resist; during the next twenty-four hours these develop into bacteria, which are destroyed by a second heating; and a third treatment insures sterility beyond a doubt. These spores, by the way, are those of certain non-pathogenic organisms; the most resistant pathogenic spores are killed by a few minutes' boiling. But in the case of dressings treated properly with steam under pressure, both the bacteria and the spores present are destroyed with one exposure, for even the very resistant non-pathogenic spores above mentioned cannot resist steam under 15 lb. pressure for ten minutes. But supposing they could, what effect would a second treatment on the following day have upon them? None whatever, for in the absence of moisture and nutrient material they could not develop into bacilli, and so long as they remained spores they would, within reasonable limits, retain their resistance. So a second exposure would be as futile as the first, and a third, fourth, and fifth would be equally barren of results.

Carried out with proper precautions as to packing and vacuum formation, sterilisation of dressings and sponges requires but one exposure to steam under

\* Read before the American Surgical Association, at St. Louis, June 14th, 1904.

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