

A Conference dealing with women's work will be held at Versailles on Thursday, June 15th, in the *Parc des Ombrages*, which has been lent for the occasion by Mme. Alfred André. It is hoped that the subject of the *infirmières* in the Paris hospitals, and the amelioration of their condition, may be discussed. Mme. Dr. Edward Pilliet, Mme. d'Avril St. Croix, and Mme. Alphen Salvador, who are all taking a leading part in the Conference, are interested in the matter, and will probably bring it forward. It is thought that the institution of clubs, and coffee rooms would be appreciated by the *infirmières*, whose life is a hard one. No class of workers can maintain their work at its highest level without some recreation, and this is especially the case with nurses, whose life is exceptionally arduous.

### Practical Points.

#### A Warning to Nurses.

An unfortunate accident, which fortunately terminated more happily than was at first thought probable, occurred in a hospital recently. The night nurse was preparing to catheterise a female patient, and placed a glass catheter on the gas stove to sterilise it before using it. She was called away, and the catheter boiled dry. After waiting a few minutes for it to cool, a solution of boracic acid was poured over it, and the catheter was inserted in the bladder. When it was being withdrawn it broke in her hands, and the point remained in the bladder. The heat had cracked the catheter, and the nurse had not noticed it before inserting it. After two or three attempts, lasting upwards of an hour each, the broken head of the catheter (measuring about an inch) was removed by the surgeon in charge without cutting into the bladder. But it taught the nurses of that hospital a lesson about catheterising that they will not soon forget. Let other nurses take warning.

#### Silence during Operations.

Laughing and loud talking should be forbidden in every surgical operating-room. It has been shown by experiments with the Petri dish and otherwise that in speaking in a low conversational voice saliva containing bacteria is not projected from the mouth, but that in every explosive vocalisation, as laughing and loud talking, bacteria are thrown out, perhaps upon the field of operation. "Noli loque, noli tangere," should be the unwritten, if not the written, motto of every operating-room.

#### How to Disinfect a Suit of Clothes.

A suit of clothes may be disinfected by putting it into a common wash boiler, in one end of which a soft towel has been placed. Pour upon the towel a quantity of formalin, allowing at least an ounce for each cubic foot of space, and put a cover on immediately, and keep it closed five or six hours at least. Before taking out the suit a little ammonia water poured upon the towel will help to neutralise the formaldehyde and remove the pungent odour from the clothing.

### Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The designs for the new King's College Hospital, at Denmark Hill, which have been on view at Carpenter's Hall, London Wall, show that the building is to consist of a large Central Administrative Block containing the necessary accommodation for the medical, nursing, and other official staff, flanked on either side by a low wing, one for the out-patient department and the other the medical school.

Behind these buildings are the separate blocks in which the wards are placed, the design being on the separate pavilion plan, as is the case at St. Thomas's Hospital. The total cost of the building will be from £300,000 to £400,000.

Lord Cheylesmore, presiding at the Quarterly Court of the Governors of the Middlesex Hospital, referred to the letter received from King Edward's Fund for London notifying the hospitals that no grants would be made from the King's Fund to any hospitals which made payments to, or on account of, their medical schools out of the general funds subscribed for the relief of the poor. He added that the medical school had always been a very important part of the Middlesex Hospital, and it would be a most drastic change to have to close it. They had accordingly resolved to convene a special meeting next month, at which they would ask the governors and subscribers to allow a portion of their subscriptions to go direct to a fund for the medical school. At present a certain portion of the funds subscribed to the hospital had, with the consent of the governors, been used for the maintenance of the school.

The Duke of Portland took the chair last week, at the Savoy Hotel, at the dinner in aid of the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, and made an earnest appeal for continued and increased support. The institution was, he said, an absolute necessity to the desperately poor people of the district. In all, 1700 in-patients had been admitted in the course of the year, and the annual attendance of out-patients was about 80,000. His Grace pleaded eloquently for support for the hospital, which was in a remote and unattractive part of the metropolis, and was an example of economical management. £1,400 was necessary to secure conditional gifts, and £4,750 if a deficit was not to be shown at the end of the year. Donations and subscriptions amounting to £965 were announced by the Secretary, Mr. U. M. Wilcox, in the course of the evening.

The friends of the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, E.C., are well pleased with the success attending the reception by the Lady Mayoress in the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House. It is hoped to secure a conditional offer of £2,000, made by a member of the Council, provided a further sum of £3,000 is collected. The sum subscribed at the dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant, at which the Lord Mayor presided last week, amounted to £2,386.

The British Home and Hospital for Incurables,

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