

Nurses, whose hair almost stood on end with horror at a few pieces of torn paper littered over the prim quilts.

If a child wants to play, prop him up with an extra pillow, let him have a few such toys as he may covet. Let him litter his counterpane and amuse himself happily.

This is far better nursing, and far better for the patient, than to insist on his lying flat down with nothing to do, a course which almost every child will resent, with the result that instead of quarter of an hour's quiet occupation followed by natural sleep, there will probably be an hour's fretfulness and crying, more exhausting to the patient than a little quiet play.

Children taken away from their parents will sometimes of course fret. It is not so much their parents that they miss as their parents' affection.

A little love bestowed on the babies goes a long way, and inspires confidence. Gain a child's affection and you can do almost anything with it.

This "little thing" is a valuable one, alas often overlooked.

The toys which the children play with should be carefully chosen and kept scrupulously clean.

They should not be passed from one child to another, as all children have a habit of "mouthing" their playthings occasionally, and it stands to reason any object so treated must very quickly become of a very septic nature. Washable toys are the best for a fever ward.

Many nurses appear to fail to realise the extreme importance of aseptic nursing, in fever cases.

I have known a fully-trained nurse with many years' experience in several large hospitals, to go gaily round a ward syringing the ears and throats and noses with a separate nozzle or syringe for each patient, but making the same bowl of lotion do for all, and the same mackintosh and kidney tray! I have known not one, but many nurses adopt this practice, until they were remonstrated with.

Yet put any one of those nurses in a surgical ward in a general hospital and they would not dream of going from one bed to the next with the same bowls and mackintosh, unsterilised between.

Unless the doctor in attendance has any objection to the practice, it is an excellent plan in all cases where there is any otorrhœa, however slight, to lightly bandage a pad of antiseptic wool over the affected ear.

This not only keeps cold winds out, but

prevents the discharge from getting about the bed-clothing, and proving a fresh source of infection and danger to the entire ward.

The pad of wool should be frequently changed. A plug of wool in the ear is not desirable.

It is a good plan to keep a careful record not only of the child-patient's temperature, but of his pulse and respiration, right up to the very end of his isolation. Many an attack of bronchitis may be detected and treated thus, before it has passed its very earliest stages, and the first symptoms of chorea or endocarditis noted, reported and checked.

All the foregoing remarks are, of course, only intended to apply to cases where the "little things" are left by the doctor, entirely to the nurse's own discretion.

League News.

We have been asked to publish the following letter in order that any nurses, formerly on the staff of the Victoria Nurses' Institute, Cambridge Road, Bournemouth, who may not, through change of address, etc., have received their notices of the foundation of the League, may, if they wish to become members, communicate with Miss Forrest, the Matron, or the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Balstone, 40, Gerald Road, Bournemouth.

TO NURSES FORMERLY CONNECTED WITH THE VICTORIA NURSES' INSTITUTE, BOURNEMOUTH.

Dear Nurse,—It is proposed to form a League of the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses, past and present. The suggested objects of the League to be:—

1. A Union between past, present, and future Nurses.

2. For mutual help and pleasure.

3. To provide a means by which the V.B.N.I. can collectively express their views on matters of interest and importance to the nursing profession, or if desired take action in the same.

The cost of maintaining the League will be defrayed by an annual subscription of 2s. 6d.

Should you wish to join the League kindly fill in the enclosed form and return it to me with your subscription before January 15th, 1907. [Mrs. Balstone will be pleased to forward this form on application.—Ed.]

The first Social Gathering will take place on February 5th, 1907, at the Cambridge Road Home, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The cost of Badge and Journal will be extra.

Your hearty co-operation is asked to make the League a success.

I remain, yours truly,

A. BALSTONE, *Hon. Sec.*

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