

quite a charming little place, where very good special work is done, and as the staff nurses must have been trained in general hospitals, it provides opportunities for practical experience which is most valuable.

One arrangement lately inaugurated pleased us greatly. Working in the out-patient departments of many children's hospitals, nurses often feel quite unhappy about the poor children operated upon for the removal of adenoids, being speedily removed to their often time miserable homes. At the Throat Hospital this is not permitted. After the operation in a little theatre close by, the patients are put to bed in a ward kept for the purpose. Here they remain for several hours. If then in a fit condition they are discharged, but if not they are admitted as in-patients till all danger is passed. Usually this nice ward, which contains eight beds, is empty by the afternoon, when it is cleaned and the beds prepared for the out-patient operations on the following morning. This system should commend itself to the managers of all children's hospitals.

Like the majority of London hospitals, the Throat Hospital wants space for extension, and this it is hoped may in the near future be procured. Miss Smith quite agreed that it is much more interesting to help to improve a hospital than to find everything cut and dried.

We have had several most interesting interviews during the past week, with those going on to Paris. First, Miss M. Adelaide Nutting has been in London, and her opinion on the evolution of Nursing is most interesting. One is often tempted to imagine that home difficulties are the most insurmountable, but a chat with those engaged in nursing work abroad speedily dispels this delusion. America has its own political problems, and these unfortunately touch Nursing more than they do in England. The depreciation of nursing efficiency is threatened, Miss Nutting thinks, if the old term of two years' training, instead of three, is reverted to, and we gather this is the opinion of the majority of thoughtful superintendents in the States.

But if the American hospital world is reactionary in one direction, it is full of life and progress in others. Thus, note the new Chair at Teacher's College, Columbia University, to which Miss Nutting has been appointed, and from which her colleagues anticipate immense benefit. This professorship has been created for the purpose of investigating and instructing

in the administration and management of institutions, hospitals, training schools, homes for children and the aged—any one, indeed, of the countless charitable foundations—and it is being realised by the businesslike American that much of the national health and well-being depends upon women being properly educated and equipped before being inducted into responsible positions in such institutions. Miss Nutting is of opinion that it will be possible to work out courses of instruction, which will do much to promote efficiency in this large department of work, which she considers belongs naturally to women.

Miss Keith Payne, Matron of the Wellington Hospital, is in London from New Zealand, and anticipates a most interesting visit to Paris. As she comes fresh from a Colony where State Registration is in force, and where many experiments have been tried, her expert knowledge on a variety of points is most valuable, and we are glad to know that Miss Payne is prepared to report to the Conference the practical result of several of these experiments. For instance, at Wellington and in several other hospitals, the eight hour day for nurses is in force, three shifts dividing the work during the twenty-four hours between them. One shift from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., one from 2 p.m. till 10 p.m., the third from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Meals take up an hour of this time, so that the working hours are actually seven. When one realises that by this arrangement the nurses in training have eight hours' freedom a day, and can spend most of that time out of the hospital, many problems present themselves to the mind. Somehow it does not at first sight seem possible to concentrate one's mind on the work, especially on the patients if one only comes in contact with them and their disease for seven hours in the twenty-four, and cannot, therefore, closely observe the course of disease or operation.

The working of the four St. Helen's Maternity Hospitals in New Zealand have met a great need, Miss Keith Payne reports. They are very well organised and nursed, and are very useful to the public, who can only afford to pay about thirty shillings a week for nursing, etc., during the lying-in period, and they afford facilities for the education of nurses in the obstetric branch of their work. Formerly such experience was not obtainable in New Zealand, and pupils had to go to Sydney or England to learn maternity nursing and midwifery.

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