

in the Maison Dubois, who have been quite delighted with the hospital and the nursing.

In fact, and in one word, it is to be hoped that some day London will copy Paris, and that in England we shall have a similar hospital for people of limited means.

EDLA R. WORTABET.

An Interesting Exhibit.

One of the most interesting exhibits at the very successful *Conversazione* given by the medical staff at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on the 23rd ult., to view the new outpatient and special department block, was the Nursing Section. There were beds made for special cases, such as for giving vapour baths, etc.; a set of "harness" for keeping a child securely in bed while allowing considerable movement, and with absolutely no danger of entanglement, attracted a great deal of attention; then there were splints to meet every possible requirement, and nowhere do we ever see splints so beautifully padded as those prepared by the Nursing Staff of this school. The glass cupboards, containing ward requisites, arranged by Sister Darker, were models of what such cupboards should be; and the two boxes which the private Nurses can, if desired, take with them to operation cases, excited great interest, when they were explained by Miss Marcon, Sister in charge of the Private Nursing Institution. The preparatory box contains all that a nurse going to an operation case on the previous day will require in the preparation of the patient. The larger box, which is opened only on the arrival of the surgeon, encloses metal cases, which contain sterilised overalls and towels, bowls, dressings, dabs, swabs, and other requisites for an operation case, for the thorough sterilisation of which the hospital authorities are responsible. It is hoped that a portable operation table may, in the near future, be also supplied, for a small charge, through the private Nursing staff. There were dainty dressings and bandages for eye cases, a cast of the head of Rahere being utilised for the application of one of these bandages. The nursing requisites in a case of diphtheria were also shown; an incubator, heated by hot water bottles; and some appetising invalids' diets, delicately arranged on trays. Included in the section was a model of Rahere Ward in the past, the old print from which it was copied hanging over the model. An interesting demonstration of medical gymnastics was given by Miss Wilson.

This exhibit required a suite of rooms, and demonstrated the paramount importance of skilled nursing in the treatment of the sick.

The Status of Metropolitan Asylums Board Matrons.

An ordinary meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board was held at the offices of the Board on Saturday last, Mr. A. C. Scovell was in the chair at its commencement. Amongst the correspondence dealt with was a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Matrons' Council, addressed to the Chairman of the Board, enclosing, for his information, copies of the Resolutions carried at the Meeting of Protest convened by the Matrons' Council, and held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Saturday, October 19th. The Resolutions, which have been previously published in this Journal, were read by the clerk to the Board, as was also the following letter, signed by Matrons of Hospitals and Asylums under the Board:—

COPY OF A LETTER SENT TO THE METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD BY ITS MATRONS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—We, the Matrons of the Hospitals and Asylums under the management of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, have heard with much surprise that the Members of the Board have passed a Resolution recommending to the Local Government Board that the future Matrons of these Institutions shall no longer rank as Principal Officers.

We beg most earnestly to deprecate this action, and to suggest that it should be reconsidered for the following reasons:—

1. The Matrons of these Institutions hold posts of very great responsibility, as they are, and must always be, responsible for the proper carrying out of the Medical Officers' orders, and in other ways ensuring the proper nursing and treatment of the patients. They are also responsible for the behaviour of the Nursing Staff, when on and off duty, for the cleanliness of the Hospital, and for the linen and other stores. This responsibility cannot be properly borne and efficiently exercised by the Matrons unless their authority is adequate. A second class officer cannot hold and enforce such authority.

2. If the position of the Matron is lowered, the position of the Nursing Staff, of which she is the head, must be lowered also. It is now not always easy to fill the responsible posts of Night Superintendent and Staff Nurse with fully-trained, efficient Nurses, who are professionally and morally likely to do credit to the Hospital, and, in the event of your action being confirmed, we feel that these difficulties will be materially and seriously increased.

3. Feeling so strongly that the lowering of the status of Matron will lower the standard of Nurses, we should like to point out to the Board the effect this may have on the public. As the diseases treated in the Hospitals under the management of the Board are infectious, the friends of the patients cannot visit their friends as can the friends of patients in general hospitals, and assure themselves of their well-being and good

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