

of the wards, the overwork of the nurses, and the neglect of patients as matters which should have received the serious attention of the Physician-Superintendent, and they do not think in this respect Dr. Johnstone sufficiently realised his responsibilities and duty. They are also unable to exonerate the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Chalmers, who poured large quantities of patients into the hospital in excess of the ordinary accommodation, a policy fraught with danger, unless its operation was watched with scrupulous vigilance. The Commissioners also consider it unfortunate that the prevalent overcrowding in some wards was not observed by the visiting members of the Committee, or brought to its notice.

They characterise the system of requiring the nurses of each receiving ward to do its ambulance work as a bad one, and consider that a separate ambulance staff should be provided. We, however, search the report in vain for any practical suggestion as to the methods whereby the overcrowding and understaffing which they describe and condemn are to be averted in the future.

The strange thing revealed by the report is the policy of *laissez faire* adopted by all grades. There is not one instance related of a Sister going to the Matron and refusing to be responsible for the efficiency of the nursing of the patients in wards so overcrowded and understaffed; of the Matron making strong representations to the Physician-Superintendent, in her daily official interviews with him, on the subject; or of the Physician protesting to the Medical Officer of Health as to the overcrowding. One and all appear to have taken the line of least resistance, and let things slide, and the policy of the Matron does not seem to have been to grip the needs of her own department and reorganise the nursing staff in view of the necessity of the situation, but to impress her own omnipotence on the harassed and overworked Sisters, and to insist on their making bricks without straw.

The people of Glasgow owe a debt of gratitude to the resident physicians who drew attention to the conditions of the hospital, and we understand that as a result of the Commissioners' report, which has proved that they had justifiable ground for complaint, they are asking to be reinstated, and we hope that justice will be done.

Discoursing on the treatment of influenza, a doctor remarked that the best cure was "blankets and rest." This is the sort of treatment, we should imagine, the nursing staff at Ruchill would hugely enjoy.

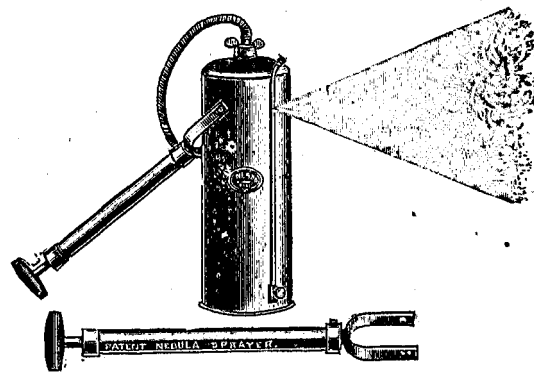
Practical Points.

The Nebula Sprayers.

These sprayers are constructed on an entirely new principle with the object of producing a continuous cloud of vapour so finely atomised by means of compressed air that it falls like dew. In fact, if properly sprayed one can scarcely believe the floor perfectly covered until one proves by experiments that it is so.

The canister holds about 2 pints of antiseptic, which takes over half an hour to empty, consequently a large area may be covered such as isolation wards, sick bays, etc., without inconvenience to the inmates.

Nebula No. 3 is the latest achievement in sprayers. It damps without wetting, and each stroke of the piston sends out a continuous cloud of air and liquid, which diffuses evenly over the area to be disinfected without collecting in pools. There is practically no other antiseptic sprayer



which works on this principle; ordinary sprayers depend simply on air compressed to force the liquid through fine holes or channels without atomising it.

A pint of liquid diffused by the Nebula sprayers goes further and is more effectual than 10 times that amount used in ordinary sprayers.

The value of the "Nebula" is enhanced by the fact that there is nothing to get out of order.

Although only recently placed on the market the Nebula sprayers are being used at various large London hospitals, and other public institutions, and are being tested by the War Office, India Office, and Admiralty, in conjunction with Beta-Lysol.

Dr. T. M. Allison writes in the *British Medical Journal*:

Sugar Headaches. I have been struck for a long time by the number of so-called "bilious attacks" which are due to taking sugar in excess. The sugar standard of Nature is the quantity in milk—that is, a baby or young animal can thrive on the amount found in the "perfect food." But the sweetness of milk is exceeded greatly in our tea.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)