

by a gift of money from Miss Helen Wilmer, in memory of her father; the other half was paid by the trustees of the hospital, which is fairly well endowed.

And the nurses who inhabit this home? The pupils are chosen with great care. The applicant for admittance must bring references—from a clergyman as to moral character, and from a physician as to physical character. She must not be under 22 or over 35 years of age. She must have graduated from a high school, or received an equivalent of such a degree of education, whilst women of superior education and culture to this necessary modicum are given a preference. There are 150 pupils and probationers in the Home, and the full term of training is three years. There is an entrance fee of fifty dollars. During probation nurses provide their own dresses. But the chief point in this training school, and one which most specially I would emphasise, is that the nurses are only on duty eight hours in the twenty-four. Their day is thus divided:—

Eight hours on duty, two hours for meals, six hours for recreation, and eight hours for sleep.

This eight hours a day on duty for nurses obtains in three or four other large hospitals in America. The course of study during the three years' training is most exhaustive, beginning in the first half of the junior year with dietetics and household economy, both these subjects having many branches, such as care of food, the cooking of food, and special preparation of food for the sick, even to attractive methods of serving it; the furnishing of bedrooms, ventilation, drainage, linen-rooms, surgical supplies, pharmacy, and elementary nursing, which includes bed-making, taking temperatures, etc., etc., on to the study in the second half of the junior year to the end of the senior year, of all the varied diseases to which mortal man or woman is prone, and their treatment from the nursing point of view.

The Johns Hopkins Hospital is administered by a Board of Trustees, and has 375 beds. Free beds are reserved for the sick poor of Baltimore and the suburbs, and for accident cases from Baltimore and the State of Maryland. Other indigent patients are required to pay ten dollars a week. Private patients pay from thirty-five to seventy dollars a week, according to the rooms occupied. Extras are laundry, massage, a specialist doctor's fee, operating-room fee of ten dollars for surgical patients, and a special nurse has a special fee. Other arrangements for admission on part payment can be made by applying to the Superintendent of the Hospital. A large donation has recently been given to the Johns Hopkins Trustees for the building of a children's hospital.

A special feature, which struck me as I was conducted round the various departments of this fine hospital by the lady secretary of the Superintendent, a most kind and efficient guide, was the Diet Kitchen, presided over by a lady of charming personality, who is a graduate in Domestic Science of the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. The food of all patients on special diet is prepared here, and we saw some plates of salad,

ready for the consumers, which looked positively dainty. Americans can give us points in salads. One delicious salad I tasted in a friend's house in New England lives in my gastronomic memory. It consisted of a pine apple scooped out from its rind and cut into small bits, then put back into the case of rind with a perfectly-prepared mayonnaise dressing and some lettuce. The result was "a dream in salads."

In the cool and airy lower rooms of the building bandages and dressings are prepared and linen stored. A special dispensary for tuberculosis patients is called the Phipps' Dispensary, after the donor. This dispensary does very important work, and, in connection with it, there are three visiting nurses in the City of Baltimore. In the ordinary dispensary of the hospital, the medical staff, including heads of departments, number 102, and 19,863 individuals have paid 75,021 visits to it during the year 1907.

#### THE AFTER-CARE OF CONVALESCENTS.

An organisation has been recently started in connection with the Johns Hopkins Hospital to supply a want which has long been felt by all hospital officials and workers—namely, the after-care of discharged convalescent patients, and of the out-patients, who come in such great numbers to the hospital for medical aid. This organisation, which is called the Social Service Department, is already reported to be doing excellent work. A lady who has been for many years a trusted worker in the Charity Organisation Society of Baltimore, has been put in charge of this scheme. She looks after those who need more than medical advice and prescriptions, and brings them into touch with agencies or charitable individuals able to help them and improve their conditions of life. This work was only started last September, though the officers and medical students of the hospital and university had been carrying on work in a similar direction for five years on a smaller scale under the leadership of Dr. Emerson. I will quote a few statistics of this work from the Report of the Social Service Department, dated February 1st of this year. The total number of patients referred to various agencies and individuals for help was 108. The visits by the social worker to and in behalf of the patients was 194. Calls from patients and others, 618.

At the present time there is only one social service worker at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, but this much-needed work is sure to expand.

#### A SOCIAL SERVICE HOSPITAL GUILD.

Why do we not start a Social Service Hospital Guild in England? The after-care of discharged patients is a crying need with us also. Let us think on it.

The foregoing is but a poor and very slight sketch of our American cousins' hospital work. My readers, however, will be able to fill in many details for themselves. Statistics become tiresome in a descriptive article, but have I not said enough to show that hospitals in America are not a whit behind, indeed more probably in advance of, those in England in most particulars?

RAY MERTON.

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