

she should see that a supply of splints be kept padded ready for use, both the simple kind and the more complicated MacIntyre; and that all dressings are prepared for the house-surgeon and the dressers, carefully reporting to the former, all changes, and new symptoms, though, at all times, avoiding any giving of her own views or opinions, and condensing her information so far as is consistent with clearness. She should be definite regarding quantities and able to state exactly what each patient is able to take, as so much depends upon a correct representation of facts, and a little forgetfulness or carelessness may cost a patient's life. A Sister should have her own sitting-room, where she can take her breakfast and luncheon, all the Sisters of the hospital dining together; but these arrangements differ according to the hospital rules and accommodation. Dinner is a pleasant meeting time, and a little talk with a contemporary very helpful.

A Sister should have an afternoon and evening free twice during the week, subject to alteration by application to the Matron, and never absent herself from the ward during the absence of her staff nurse; at least once on Sunday she should endeavour to be present at Divine Service, and arrange for her Nurses to have a similar privilege.

The Staff Nurse holds the next position to that of Sister, whose place she takes during any absence of the latter. She should always have had at least one year's training, and proved herself capable before being entrusted with staff duty, for there are few things a Sister will value more highly than a good reliable nurse. Duty should commence, both for Nurse and Probationer, at seven o'clock, after breakfasting in the Home, and together they wash the helpless patients, providing water for those able to attend to themselves, their breakfasts having been served and cleared by the night nurse. The Staff Nurse then removes all vessels, measuring and retaining excreta when required, or when any unusual symptoms appear. Beds are next made, injured cases being moved as little as possible, all creases and crumbs being cleared out, the draw sheet altered, and the backs of patients confined to bed carefully looked to. All nurses should have a dread of bed-sores, and though in some cases they are impossible to prevent, yet their occurrence are always regarded as somewhat of a disgrace to a nurse, as they are usually preventible by a little care and perfect cleanliness. The ward should then be swept, which is usually the work of the probationer, the night nurse taking one side, and scattering tea leaves to prevent rising of dust. Everything is then dusted, lockers washed over, window sills polished, and brasses cleaned, the nurse taking her part and instructing the probationer. Temperatures should be taken an hour after washing, either by the nurse herself, or with the assistance of the probationer after she has been some time in

the hospital, and her accuracy can be relied upon. Sometimes it is taken in the mouth, and in other cases the axilla, depending upon the nature of the case, and the wish of the medical officer, which must always of course be decisive. The nurse should never allow the patient to place the thermometer himself, an accurate temperature being an important point. Sometimes the Sister prefers keeping the chart, but it is usually the duty of the nurse, who should take particular pride in her neat lines and careful dots.

Flowers are brought in and everything made bright and fresh by nine o'clock, ready for the patients' luncheon to be served, which is prepared by the nurse. Beds are then straightened, all traces of food removed, and patients made comfortable before the arrival of the medical officer. Dressings must be prepared, and placed with syringes and such bowls and trays, by each bed, as the nature of the case requires, and fresh poultices be applied.

In all these details the nurse instructs the probationer, who has her own work apportioned her, and should never act upon her own responsibility. The nurse should accompany the Sister upon her rounds with the medical officer, uncover wounds, and remove poultices, never keeping a wound exposed longer than necessary, and carefully closing windows in the vicinity. In a large hospital dressings are done by the students, but some are usually left to the nurse, who considers herself fortunate when she gets a good case in her own hands. Sometimes there is an operation in the ward, for which the nurse prepares, superintended by the Sister, and assisted by the probationer, who should always be ready to bring anything required, and at first be content to wait upon others, clearing away the soiled linen and dressings, and washing the mackintoshes and bowls. The nurse stands by the Sister while she serves the dinners, and assists the probationer in taking them to the patients, carefully noticing that they are placed in comfortable positions, that the food is cut up for the more helpless ones, and that their little fancies are attended to, so far as the Sister considers well. Some require to be fed, and this needs patience and cheery words of encouragement, for a man feels his weakness sadly, and doubly so, when a nurse permits herself to grow impatient, or irritable. Stimulants should never be forgotten, some patients being on wine or beer, which should always be written upon the diet board, and never given without the sanction of the medical officer.

The nurse should have from twenty minutes to half an hour for her dinner, and returning, see the ward cleared, crumbs swept away, and everything once more dusted. This is a time when the patients can sometimes sleep a little, while nurse and probationer pad splints, or occupy themselves with hospital sewing, keeping a watchful eye upon the patients, ready to attend to their wants, alter their

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