

position, or moisten parched lips, with the kind word and smile often so greatly valued.

On visiting days the nurse remains in the ward, carefully noting that no patient has more than the specified number of visitors, and that no food is distributed; in hopeless cases, the relatives being permitted to visit at any time. The nurse enjoys seeing the bright welcome on the pale faces as mother, sister, or husband enter the ward, bringing often a little nosegay fresh from the country; and the grateful thanks of the relatives are very pleasant to receive, as "my kind nurse" is pointed out to them. Time flies quickly, and the hour is soon past; a few eyes hold tears as the door closes, but the sufferers bear their sorrows for the most part patiently, and are much as usual when tea is served round at half-past four o'clock, the nurse sharing this duty with the probationer, remembering who is "on" boiled eggs, and who is not, and cutting bread and butter a little more thinly for the very sick ones under her care. The nurses' tea is taken in the ward kitchen very cosily, where they can make toast, and bring in little extras of their own purchasing. Half-an-hour soon passes at this time, for tea is one of the favourite leisure spaces in a hospital, and the fact that our happiest times flit away the most quickly is proverbial. As when the body is in the most perfect health, we are the least conscious of it, so we become somewhat dreamy in these pleasant moments of life. Then comes the evening dressings by the nurse, who apportions a few minor ones to the probationer, and all poultices are changed.

There should be evenings appointed for different phases of cleaning, arranging medicine cupboards, washing bed pulleys, for nothing is too small to be looked into and kept clean in a hospital, and this manual labour a little diverts the mind from dwelling too acutely upon the suffering all around, that, otherwise, might be depressing. The tin bowls and trays should also have their evening for being polished, and the patients are very pleased to assist in this work, and with an old mackintosh or quilt laid on the bed, they sometimes forget an ache while "helping nurse" and competing with each other in making their bowl the brightest. The patients who are up, help to carry out the flowers, which kind friends send in such numbers to our hospitals, and the probationer freshens the potted ones with a little water in the lavatory, for flowers should never be left in the ward during the night, but they brighten it, and freshen the air during the day. Supper should then be served by the probationer, simple fare always, but varied, of course, according to the condition of the patient.

Temperatures are taken during the evening, beginning at six o'clock; some cases require more frequent observation, and are registered every four hours; typhoid fever, which is nursed in the

general medical wards, being one of these. The nurse and probationer never have the same evening off duty, and the nurse does the important part of her work previous to leaving the ward. There is great good fellowship between nurses, and they rarely impose their work upon each other. The nurse goes off duty at nine o'clock, after folding up the bed quilts and seeing each patient as comfortable as their pains will permit, leaving her report with the Sister.

Very tired she often is, when she enters the nurses' Home, but in her heart there is a sense of rest in the consciousness of a day well-spent, and duty well done; a day to which she can look back through all her life, as far from wasted. And perhaps a little word that she has dropped, of the spiritual, which is the real, life has taken root in a mind which has so much time for thinking now, though it has hitherto had only time to struggle for the bare right to exist, and for that, throughout eternity, some soul may have cause to bless her.

In a busy hospital, and how few hospitals are not busy, a nurse can seldom have more than the two and a half hours off duty on two evenings in the week, though a little extra time is sometimes granted, and once each fortnight, the afternoon and evening from two o'clock. In some hospitals, they have a whole day once in the month instead, but this necessitates an extra nurse, for the morning work is heavy, and generally too much for a probationer alone. An extra nurse is often required when the "Staff" is absent in the afternoon. On Sunday nurse and probationer have, alternately, morning and evening, the Sister taking her time with the latter. In the morning, they go off duty at ten o'clock, in time to prepare for Service, and in the evening at six. On Sunday, all extra cleaning is avoided, such as brasses and lockers, the whole day being kept as quiet and peaceful as possible. In some wards the patients are allowed to sing an evening hymn, and there is usually a short Service held by the chaplain in the morning. In the afternoon there are always the visitors, and this is their special day, for often in the week, the winning of the daily bread keeps them from the bedside where they fain would be; the nurse is glad when the day is fine, for her floors suffer, in spite of the mats outside each door, and she is glad that Monday is a morning for the scrubbers. She finds marks too on her clean counterpanes which she grudges a little, but in spite of some assertions, nurses are mostly tender-hearted people, and take these things patiently as the little crosses of daily life. The great crosses some of them have borne are the causes which have driven them into hospital work, with the hope that in the face of physical pain, bravely suffered by others, their own heartache will be most easily forgotten. And a sweet, keen sympathy for others, often springs from the wound that never

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