

private house it is necessary that the whole of the top floor should, if possible, be devoted to the patient and his attendants. The sick room must be well ventilated, windows kept partly open, a fire burning, and the floor must be sprinkled with disinfectant fluid, while some deodorant, such as Sanitas powder, may also be sprinkled about the bed-clothes and room. The door should be kept closed, and a sheet, wet with a solution of carbolic acid, hung outside it so as to cover every crevice. All curtains, carpets, and unnecessary furniture must be removed from the room before the patient enters it, and all his bed and body-linen should before leaving the room be put into a solution of carbolic acid; after remaining in this for at least an hour they should be boiled. All cups, glasses, spoons, and such articles used in the sick room must be placed in some disinfectant solution before leaving it, and subsequently washed in hot water. The patient's person and bed should be kept scrupulously clean; and when during the progress of the disease scabs form upon the skin, their diffusion should be prevented by smearing the surface daily with oil. The entire house should be kept well ventilated and very clean; all sinks, &c., should be in good order, and have a solution of carbolic acid or chloride of lime poured into them daily. The Nurses should wear dresses of washing material, and should under no circumstances mix with other members of the household. At the termination of the illness the room must be disinfected in the manner described in connexion with scarlet fever.

The patient's nourishment should consist of milk, beef-tea, chicken-broth, and eggs, and he may be allowed to drink freely of iced water, lemonade, or soda-water. Black-currant jelly may be of use in relieving the soreness of the throat. The Nurse must remember that patients suffering from confluent small-pox cannot be washed until the pocks are dried up, but she must bestow special care on the eyes. They should be sponged, dried, and anointed with olive oil, and if there be any tendency to inflammation or ulceration of the conjunctivæ, the solution which the doctor prescribes must be carefully and frequently dropped in between the lids.

During the earlier stages the patient's face should be painted with iodine, or with starch, to form a thin mask, and in the later stages the face, and, indeed, the whole body, should be smeared with oil or vaseline. During the period of decline of the eruption, and that of convalescence, the strength of the patient needs to be supported in every way—by good and nourishing diet, by stimulants, and by quinine or other tonics. Of the complications of small-pox, laryngitis, bronchitis, and pneumonia are the most common. Glandular swellings and abscesses often occur, and must be nursed according to ordinary principles; the nurse must bear in mind, however, that their presence tends to still

more enfeeble the patient, and is, therefore, an indication for sustaining strength by carefully and frequently administered nourishment.

When the patient is convalescent he must not be allowed to mix with the rest of the family until all the peeling of the scabs has ceased, and the skin become perfectly smooth. This is often a long and wearisome process, but it may be hastened by daily warm baths, to which should be added some disinfecting solution.

I should like, in conclusion, to say a few words on the subject of Fever Hospitals and Fever Nurses. Is it not a fact that until quite recently the idea prevailed that just as any sort of building was good enough for a Fever Hospital, so any sort of woman was good enough for a Fever Nurse? No matter how rough, ignorant, or incapable she might be, she was considered quite fit to attend upon that form of illness which, more than any other, seems to require gentle, refined, and experienced nursing. Those days are, happily, now of the past, and it is fully recognised that nowhere is the "efficient nurse," so well described in a recent number of the *Nursing Record*, more necessary than in the wards of a Fever Hospital. The patients, as a rule, are so helpless, that it must be especially galling to be dependent on a rough, unsympathetic woman, who, probably, shows only too plainly that she considers them very troublesome if they make any extra demands on her time and sympathy. Then, again, they are so often quite unconscious that if, like her renowned predecessor, Mrs. Gamp, she chose to remove the "pillar" from the patient's head to her own, or, perhaps, to transfer the stimulant intended for him to her own tea-pot, she could do so without anyone being the wiser.

Bright, clean, cheerful wards, and intelligent, well-trained, trustworthy Nurses are needed in all hospitals but surely nowhere more than in those which are set apart for the nursing of Infectious Fevers.

HOSPITAL SKETCHES.—NO. 2.

ABOUT SISTER DORIS—AN IMAGINATIVE WARD

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HOSPITAL life has innumerable charms, one of the greatest being, that amongst the great number of women with whom one comes in contact, one is almost sure to find a "kindred soul," some one woman who understands one instinctively, and who, therefore, becomes, without either rhyme or reason, a companion in the truest sense of the word, and with whom it is a real pleasure to spend the hours off duty. I often wonder how I should get on without Sister Doris, to whom I confide all my little joys or sorrows, for I am a gregarious creature, and crave after sympathy, of which she, self-contained

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