

I refer to the fabric known as "nun's veiling," which combines within itself all the essential qualifications required in a material for summer underclothing. It is woollen, it is extremely fine, and thin, it is pretty, and it is cheap. A pale coloured or cream nun's veiling at 6d. the yard gives, I think, the thinnest and most open woollen muslin that can be obtained, and it makes up into the daintiest and most delicate-looking underwear imaginable. Cream veiling, with lace or crochet edgings, and fancy stitchings of cream, pale blue, or pink knitting silk, makes exquisitely light and attractive woollen under garments for summer wear. Silk and lace do not look finer or prettier, and it is as delightful in wear as it is to look at. It washes, as all woollens do, and therefore wears better than one would think from a first glance. Indeed, before washing, it looks such poor thin stuff that one might well be excused doubting whether it would wear long enough or well enough to repay the labour of making; but it is an agreeable surprise to find it improve with every washing, for the advantage of the nun's veiling in this respect is that it is wool, and the cheaper kinds are only more open and thinner in make, not more largely mixed with cotton, as most cheap dress goods are.

With respect to making the nun's veiling up into garments, they should be an inch too large, to allow for shrinking, and the seams should be neatly run and felled. The making should be done by hand, as it is a fabric which does not take kindly to the sewing machine; but it is so soft and pleasant to work upon, that this is no hardship. As to quantities, much depends on the size of the garments, but it takes a little more veiling than cotton, as the former is narrower. At sixpence the yard, it generally runs about twenty-two inches wide; but no doubt a wider one could be obtained for a better price, where one is disposed to pay it. Two yards make a singlet, or vest, with short sleeves, and for these it is a distinct advantage to get it as wide as possible, and so avoid having to set gores in. Chemises (it is most economical to make two together) take three lengths twice the length of the chemises for two garments, which comes to a width and a-half in each; the two, including sleeves, will take about seven yards. Combinations, with short sleeves, take about five yards, out of which there are many large pieces that cut almost to waste. One cannot cut them, however, from a lesser quantity, and these pieces, quilted threefold, make winter chest preservers for those who need them.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.—WEST KENT GENERAL HOSPITAL, Maidstone. Salary £60.—Apply to the Secretary, West Kent General Hospital, on or before Thursday, September 6.

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

* * *We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See notices.*

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—“Sister Margaret” gives so few details concerning the Hospital to which she has been appointed, that I fear she may not find my experiences as useful as I could wish them to be. She must, therefore, take the will for the deed. But, having had charge of a Children's Hospital of the size she mentions, I will just touch upon how it was worked. The Medical Officer and Secretary were non-resident, so that no provision had to be made for their accommodation. As Lady Superintendent, my duties consisted in actively superintending the Nursing, and I was also entirely responsible for the housekeeping, and every detail of domestic management. To help me I was allowed the following staff:—On day duty, for each Ward containing sixteen cots, one Trained Nurse, one Regular Probationer, who signed for a term of two years' training, and one Paying Probationer, who was not admitted for less than a term of six months. On night duty, I had one Trained Nurse, and one Probationer between the two Wards, to be used for special duty if required. With this staff (ten including myself as Sister), it may surprise some of your readers to hear that we found ourselves fully occupied, morning, noon, and night—sick children and babies needing such constant attention.

I accompanied the Medical Officer in his daily round, which he made between the hours of ten and 12.30 a.m., taking it in turns with the Trained Nurses to help him daily with the out-patients, of which we had a great number. The Nurses were off duty alternate afternoons and evenings, from four to six, or six to nine, each taking the other's duty during her absence. The Probationers were off duty from two to four, and seven to nine on alternate days, and all Nurses were allowed half-a-day (from two to ten p.m.) once in the fortnight, when her two fellow-nurses in the Ward remained on duty the whole day. All Nurses on day duty began work at 7.30 a.m., and were relieved at eight p.m. by the night staff, who returned at eight a.m., when they came straight to my room with their night report. Meals were served at the following hours in the Ward: breakfast, seven a.m.; lunch, 9.30; dinner, 12.30; tea, four p.m.; supper, 6.30; plentiful supplies of milk being provided for the night. I read prayers twice daily in each Ward, at nine a.m. and at 6.45 p.m., after which “Good-night” was said.

The Nurses' meals were provided in their dining-room: Day Nurses' breakfast, seven a.m.; dinner, one p.m.; tea, 4.30; and supper at nine. The Paying Probationers dined with me at 1.30. Night Nurses' breakfast, 7.30 p.m.; food for the night was taken to the Ward; dinner, 8.30 a.m.; and off duty from nine to 11.30 daily, when light refreshments were allowed before they returned to bed at twelve. In the hot weather, they went out after a cup of tea in the evening from six to 7.30.

On the domestic staff, I had one *good* cook; one parlour-maid, who waited upon me, kept my rooms

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