

patient comfortable. Another special pride of the Blockley Nurses is the watchful care of the patients' backs, a bed-sore being a thing unknown, even in cases of bad fractures or paralysis. At 8.30 p.m. the Ward work of the Nurse ends; at that time she is relieved by the Night Nurse.

One day in each week every Nurse is allowed four hours off duty, but on the following day she remains on duty the entire day, allowing the Relief Nurse her liberty. On Sunday every alternate Nurse may attend Chapel in the morning, and in the evening she may be off duty from 5.30 p.m. On the following Sunday she may have the afternoon from 12.30 to 5.30 p.m.

Excepting in the summer months, when all classes and lectures are suspended, the evenings are also occupied, until ten o'clock, in the following manner:—On Monday, a senior and junior class is held in the class rooms, by the Chief Nurse and her assistant; Tuesday is recreation evening, when the Chief Nurse, Head Nurses, and Probationers all assemble in the Nurses' drawing-room for dancing, games, and a general "good time"; after which is served a slight refreshment of chocolate or tea and cake; Wednesday is a demonstration class on bed-making, bandaging, attending operations, &c.; Thursday evening is spent in writing out the lectures heard during the week; Friday, evening classes again. On Saturday, unless a special class is called, the Nurses are allowed that evening to themselves.

The day ends at 10.30, when the lights are extinguished, and dead silence ensues at once. Once during the year a vacation of ten days is given to each Nurse. Nursing in the Surgical Wards is even more engrossing than that on the other floors, for there the Nurse is allowed the care of many dressings, after she has become thoroughly familiar with the principles of antiseptics. There are no special dressers to attend to them, and the Resident Surgeon looks after only the most serious cases. In the Surgical Wards the spare time of the Nurse is spent in preparing the dressings to be used on the morrow.

In all the Wards there is usually a patient or two to prepare for clinic twice in the week, or for an operation. During the week there is a lecture delivered to the Nurses by the Chief Physicians on different subjects—*anatomy, physiology, emergencies, medical and surgical Nursing, &c.* Of these lectures the Nurses take notes, which are afterwards written out more fully, and subjected to the inspection of the Chief Nurse. The members of the Training School are divided into two classes—those who stay but one year, receive no pay, and having obtained their certificate leave the Hospital, usually to do private Nursing; those who stay two years, and receive nine dollars a

month. During the second year these fill the positions of Head Nurses in the Hospital, and receive training in the insane department, which is not in the course of one year. The Hospital laundry is also superintended by a Trained Nurse.

The food provided for the Nurses is exceptionally good, being far superior to that in most Training Schools. Breakfast consists of tea, coffee, and milk; porridge, beefsteak, or chops of some sort, with potatoes, or griddle cakes. For dinner there is soup, two kinds of meat, three vegetables besides potatoes, and a dessert. Supper consists of tea, coffee, and milk, cold meats or oysters, preserves, and cake. At 8.30 p.m. there is, for those who care for it, a biscuit and a glass of milk. A competent cook for the Nurses is paid five hundred dollars a year, and is required to do his best. The supplies are abundant and well chosen, and the Housekeeper—a Trained Nurse—is held responsible for the orderly conduct of all points bearing upon the domestic comfort and economy of the Training School.

[We have had much pleasure in publishing these articles on American Hospitals, from "our cousins across the herring pond," and shall gladly give the same prominence to others equally well written and interesting. Our readers will doubtless think with us, that while on the one hand our methods of Nursing in the old country are more advanced, our cousins certainly take better care than we do of the Nurses themselves. "Five hundred dollars (£100) a year for a competent cook" for the Nurses' own especial comfort and sustenance! Beef-steaks and chops for breakfast! Oysters and dessert! What a tantalising picture to show to many a hungry English Pro.!]—ED.]

NURSING ECHOES.

** Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.

MR. EDITOR has shown me a letter that he has received, and which, I suppose, will appear in our correspondence columns this week, about the forthcoming *conversazione* of the British Nurses' Association. The proposal is causing more excitement in Nursing circles in London than has been felt now for some months, and is certainly a most clever and effective way of proving the wonderful success the Association has achieved in the few short months it has been in existence, and of drawing public attention to its aims and aspirations. I regret that I have not yet been able to obtain particulars of where it is proposed to hold the *conversazione* and what the programme of

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