

exchanging experiences with one another as they met.

It had been prophesied that we should have a great deal of prejudice to contend against, as the Germans are supposed not to be favourable to Britishers; but we received the most cordial reception from Directors, Medical and Nursing staffs. Great credit is due to all the officials for their untiring devotion to the patients. The doctors for the first two weeks had no regular sleeping times; they could only take snatches of sleep when they were able to spare the time. They all wore long brown holland Newmarket coats with brass buttons, which were at the same time hygienic and artistic. In keeping with their military instincts—for of course they had all been in the army—they observed Court ceremony over trifles, and bowed frequently and courteously one to the other. And we noticed that they did not observe the lofty magnificence of demeanour towards the Nurses which is affected by so many English house surgeons, and which Sir Spencer Wells attributes to the fact that the modern Nurse is so attractive that the junior members of the Hospital staffs must hedge themselves in with an outward frigidity of manner!

We were amused to see that some of the doctors made use of squares of thymol-gauze as antiseptic handkerchiefs, and as a means of polishing their learned spectacles. The untiring kindness, and the manner in which the house-doctors consulted the individual tastes of each patient struck us very favourably.

The standard of Nursing was not high, but great kindness was the rule of the wards. Personally, I believe that *much* can be done in cholera by skilled trained hands. Probably, the experiment has not yet been tried because there have been no epidemics where it was possible to obtain adequate skill; but if an outbreak should unhappily occur in England, I think the knowledge and skill of our Nurses will create a new era in cholera statistics. The Nurses were divided into three classes—the Ober-warterin (head-waitress), the Warterin, and the Probationer. The uniform consisted of a rough grey woollen material, an apron, whose shape was left to individual taste, and an unprofessional absence of cap. Our St. Bartholomew's uniforms were consequently much admired. And this brings me to a point on which I am frequently consulted: as to whether it is necessary to have a special dress for the nursing of cholera. My answer is decidedly in the negative. We had no reason to wish for any change in our ordinary hospital uniform, excepting that we thought it better to shorten our sleeves to admit of more ready disinfection and washing of hands, and we found it advisable to run and tuck in our skirts on account of the free wetting of the floor with disin-

fectants. Beyond this, there need be no anxiety with regard to dress.

The plan adopted for disinfecting the bedding and personal linen we thought particularly good, and in view of the recommendations recently issued that covered vessels should be kept *in the wards* for this purpose, I should like to say that at the Eppendorffer the system was to have a large barrel *outside* the ward, in the open air, half-full of a solution of corrosive sublimate. Immediately it became necessary to change any linen, it was at once removed from the ward, and rapidly purified by the combined effect of the fresh air and the disinfectant. The linen from a cholera patient is so offensive and deadly that it should not be left in a room or a ward a moment longer than necessary, and the *covering* of the vessel would by no means prevent the pollution of the air.

The principal disinfectants were Lysol, Carbolic Acid, and Corrosive Sublimate. Iodoform powder and gauze were used for the wounds caused during the process of infusion. With regard to the fumigation of buildings after cholera, it has been shown that the sulphur method is useless in destroying the cholera germ. The plan recommended is to wash the floors, walls, ceilings, etc., with corrosive sublimate, which is found to be the most effectual germicide in cholera.

In concluding my paper, which I fear has been somewhat lengthy, I wish again to express the pleasure it has given me to come before you this evening, and at the same time I must thank you very sincerely for the sympathetic hearing you have accorded me.

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### Nursing Echoes.

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\* \* \* *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*

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IN October last I described in these columns how Mrs. FENWICK had persuaded the managers of the Chicago Congress to arrange for a special congress for Nurses. As usual, it was some weeks later before the *Hospital* told its readers anything about the matter, and then in its usual manner the information leaked out by the publication of anonymous letters ridiculing the idea of a Nursing Congress. But events moved on as usual, and it became plain that the Congress was going to be a great success.

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