

The Chicago Exhibition.

THE BRITISH NURSING SECTION.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

(Continued from page 275.)

IN Section 10, I found items for the comfort of the sick; numerous garments, such as special operation gowns, and bed-gowns to be worn after special operations. To the inventive genius and masterly use of the needle possessed by Mrs. Walter Lakin, this very interesting section is indebted, and I append here her own description.

Small White Quilt—Used during dressing of patient by surgeon to avoid exposure. (Mull muslin and wool.)

Gentleman's Bronchitis Jacket—(Mull muslin and wool.)

Gentleman's Bed-Gown—Used after operation on upper portion of back. By untying strings on shoulders, down side, and across back, the wound may be dressed without moving or disturbing the patient. (Dr. Jaeger's pure wool material.)

Child's Bed-gown—Used in severe burns, or scalds on body. By untying strings on shoulders and side, the whole or part of the body, back or front, may be exposed without moving the patient, consequently much pain and unnecessary movement is avoided. (Dr. Jaeger's pure wool material.)

Bed Suit—Used in cases of fractured thigh and amputation of the left leg. This garment is made so that when straps are unbuckled it can be easily slipped under affected limb, and also permits of surgeon applying bandages with ease. The bed-pan can be given without unfastening any portion, the Nurse slipping back of drawers forwards and backwards. The buttoned opening in front renders patient independent of aid when urinal is required. (Flannel.)

Nightingale—(Flannel.)

Toe-cap—(Mull muslin and wool.)

Bed-Gown—Used for amputation of breast, also in cases where jacket or other poultices are applied. In amputation of breast, the surgeon can dress wound without in the least disturbing patient, the whole chest being exposed by unfastening buttons down shoulders, side and across front. For these cases when arm is strapped to side, the garment is so made to permit of sleeve being added when patient is sufficiently recovered. (Dr. Jaeger's material.)

Gaiter—Covering for upper part of leg during amputation of foot. After operation it is removed by untying strings. (Lambs wool and flannel.)

Operation Suit—Used for abdominal section, bladder and rectal cases. The upper portion is made warm, yet loose, round throat and chest, the lower part is divided on either side to permit of its being easily

turned up when patient is placed on table. The garment being stout renders it less cumbersome than the usual operation gown. The leggings or stockings keep the lower limbs warm, and are specially used in bladder and rectal cases, when limbs are extended and can in no other way be covered. (Lambs-wool and flannel.)

Narrow Quilt—Used when leg is in splint. (Mull muslin and wool.)

Large Toe-cap—(Mull muslin.)

Operation Gown—(Lambs-wool and flannel.)

Bed Suit—Used principally for ovarian cases, but also for bladder and rectal cases. For ovarian it is made to permit of surgeon dressing wound without disturbing patient. The front part is readily turned upwards owing to its not being connected with the back; by untying strings, the drawers fold backwards. This garment is particularly comfortable to patient, the legs being always covered, and the back of drawers so united to upper portion as to avoid all uncomfortable folds; added to this, the back is made without gathers, therefore it is perfectly smooth and forms no creases. Bed-pan is used with ease by simply unfastening one button, which then permits ample division. In rectal cases, the surgeon requires the front strings untied and the back buttons undone, the drawers then readily fold backwards. (Dr. Jaeger's material.)

The bed and cot shown in the British Nursing Exhibit are models of their kind, the advantages of the former are as follows:—The arched wire mattress, which does not sag with use, is high enough from the floor to enable cleaning to be done without moving the bed; it is poised on very large brass castors, whereby the bed can be moved from place to place with one hand. The whole bedding is constructed with a view to washing; thus, the wire mattress is covered with a loose crash cover; the hair mattress and pillows are encased in linen easily removed and as easily washed. The other bed covering consists of a porous cotton sheet and a quilt of strong cotton lace through which ventilation can take place, and which are light and easily washed.

The cot is also constructed with a movable wire mattress, with sliding sides, and on it is shown the complete woollen bedding recommended by Messrs. Jaeger for delicate children; mattress and pillow are of wool, and the sheeting of fine white merino. Amongst the furniture designed by women, and which deserves mention on account of its labour-saving properties, is a bed-bath, patented by Miss Down, Barrow House, Ilfracombe. This bath is specially designed to obviate the necessity of lifting patients who are unable, by reason of age, rheumatism, sprains, fractures of any kind, or cancer, where lifting is attended with pain, to use any ordinary bath. By using this improved invalid bath it will be perfectly easy for anyone suffering

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