

prepared for stock, rolls and biscuits, savoury and sweet jellies, and numberless tempting dishes made. The Nurses are thoroughly taught the constituents of food on a scientific basis, and have to pass a theoretical as well as a practical examination on the subject.

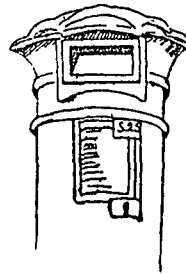
And again, the Nurses are taught the value of exquisite cleanliness in their surgical practice—taught by example which is of such infinitely greater value than precept. In England, a Nurse's clothing must be spotless and washable, but she, unfortunately, is quite accustomed to see wounds dressed daily in our Hospital wards, the house surgeon and his dressers retaining the same garment used for daily, and, often in a Hospital, for monthly, wear. In Baltimore, the surgeon and his assistants attend in the operation theatre in a complete suit of white drill—trousers and white shirt, with short sleeves—these hygienic garments were exhibited by Mrs. FENWICK. The house surgeons wore on their rounds, when the wounds were uncovered, a spotless white coat of the same material.

The preparation of dressings was another matter in which the Probationers were carefully instructed. Arnold's Steam Sterilizer (of which Mrs. FENWICK showed a specimen) being greatly used. This receptacle, being composed of copper, could be used over a close range—gas or oil stove—or, better still, in an institution, it was infinitely cheaper to tap a steam pipe, by which means no expense was incurred in sterilizing dressings—the dressings, when removed after their separate "cookings," were wrapped in oil-silk, and for use transferred to airtight glass jars—from which only thoroughly antiseptic fingers removed them. Mrs. Fenwick here showed a complete set of glass surgical appliances designed and used by her, and pointed out their great aseptic advantages.

Replying to a question from Miss SMEDLEY (Sister DARKER, St. Bartholomew's), Mrs. FENWICK said the furniture and flooring of American hospitals was hard polished wood, which was kept in order by orderlies and ward maids.

Dr. GAGE-BROWN proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK for her most interesting paper and exhibits. This was seconded by Miss DE PLEDGE, and carried with loud applause. A vote of thanks to Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH for taking the chair, proposed by Miss ISLA STEWART, was warmly accorded, and the meeting then terminated.

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.



Letters to the Editor.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed to forward you a copy of a letter which has been sent to the heads of the Nursing Institutions in the United Kingdom, whose addresses we have been able to procure, and to ask you to permit me to say, through your columns, that I should be glad to forward the information referred to, to the authorities of any nursing institution who may not have received it.—Yours faithfully,

DAISY ROBINS, Secretary.

MADAM,—We are requested by the Special Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association on the Nursing of Cholera, to invite your attention to the fact that, in September last, a roll for Nurses who would hold themselves in readiness to attend on cases of cholera, was opened by the Association at the suggestion of H. R. H. the Princess Christian, the President; and that the appeal which her Royal Highness addressed to the Nurses of Great Britain at that time, was responded to by a considerable body of Nurses, many of whom placed themselves under special instruction with a view to increasing their efficiency. The danger with which the country was then threatened was, as you are aware, for the time averted, but it is the opinion of those most competent to judge, and especially of the leading sanitary authorities, that the danger is likely to recur with increased intensity in the coming spring, and to threaten the country throughout the summer months. It should be added that Her Royal Highness's scheme received the cordial approval of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, and of the Council of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, as expressed at meetings held at the Mansion House under the presidency of the Lord Mayor.

The design of the special committee is to act as a central means of communication to which the constituted authorities can apply in times of emergency with some certainty of securing ready assistance, but not in any way to interfere with the financial arrangements or independence of any of the existing Nursing Institutions or agencies; the heads of Nursing Institutions will therefore be invited to make their own arrangements for payment of fees directly with those who may engage the services of their Nurses.

Under these circumstances, we are instructed to submit to you papers relating to the employment of Nurses, and suggestions for their guidance which have received the approval of the Special Committee and of the Council of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and to invite you to inform us, at your convenience, how many Nurses you estimate that you might be able to supply, through the agency of the Special Committee, in the event of Asiatic cholera extending to this country in the course of the coming spring and summer.—We beg to remain, Madam, your obedient servants,

W. BEZLY THORNE, M. D., } Honorary
GRACE GORDON, } Secretaries.

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