

The operation is carried out in the following manner:—Take the mass, which should be of a proper and plastic consistency, and rolling it out on the board into a pipe of the required length, place it between the cutters, and by a sharp movement and pressure, the pipe is cut and formed into pills.

The plaster spatula is used for spreading plasters on leather or other base, and consists of an oblong iron blade to which is attached a curved shank with a wooden handle. The under edges of the blade are bevelled, and the whole sometimes slightly curved. An improved apparatus is heated by gas; it is made hollow throughout and connected with the gas pipe by means of a rubber tube. The upper part of the blade is perforated with small holes, and the gas on being ignited soon warms the iron and keeps it at a suitable heat.

Suppository and pessary moulds are made of metal in various sizes for moulding 6, 12, or 24, and are divided in the centre into two sections, which are held together by a screw.

Palette knives and spatulas for mixing ointments, etc., are made of metal and bone in various sizes, stiff and pliable. For pill-making a short stiff blade is preferable; while for mixing and dividing powders a narrow, tapering, soft blade will be found the most useful. When mixing ointments a broad blade answers best. One or two small porcelain evaporating dishes, an iron tripod stand to support same, a few glass rods for stirring, two or three glass flasks of about four ounces capacity, and half-a-dozen beakers are useful, and should be found on every dispensing counter.

Methods of administering Medicines.—The various forms in which Medicine is administered may be roughly divided into two classes.

1. Those for internal use.
2. Those for external use.

In the former we have the mixture, draught, emulsion, pill, powder, etc., and in the latter the liniment, lotion, ointment, pigment, plaster, etc.

On receiving a prescription to compound, the dispenser's first duty is to carefully read it through. Note the dose of each ingredient, if for internal use, and the frequency in which it is to be administered. If any of the ingredients ordered are likely to be antagonistic or incompatible with one another when brought together, precautions must be taken to prevent re-action as far as possible. The best course should always be adopted to preserve the properties of the drugs, and every endeavour made to carry out exactly the intentions of the prescriber.

(To be continued.)

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

Nursing Echoes.

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



I AM asked to mention here that very considerable changes are about to be made in the organization of the *Nursing Record*. On and after October 6th it will be published on Friday for Saturday of each week. Mr. CHARLES F. RIDEAL, who has been the Editor during the whole existence of the Journal, has been compelled, by the increasing pressure of other duties and of larger literary work, to resign this post, to the extreme regret of everyone with whom he has worked in that capacity. The proprietors hope, very shortly, to be able to announce the name of his successor. Meanwhile, it has been already decided that the arrangement of the literary matter in these pages shall be entirely altered—and, generally speaking, that a wider range of subjects shall be discussed. So far as I am concerned, the Echoes are to be given rather more space—for which I am devoutly thankful, for I have on several occasions been unable, by the pressure of other matter, to obtain room at once for very interesting items of news which have been sent to me.

* * *

MISS EMMA LOFTS has been appointed Night Superintendent at Chelsea Infirmary. Miss LOFTS was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and passed an excellent examination. Those who have worked with Miss LOFTS predict for her a very successful career in the nursing world.

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A CHILDREN'S fancy dress ball and open air *fête*, in aid of the Children's Hospital at Leicester, was given in the Abbey Park by Sir THOMAS and Lady WRIGHT last week. The children arrived in the afternoon, and were received by Sir THOMAS and Lady WRIGHT, who greeted their little guests as they entered the tent—no easy task, seeing that it was computed that some 6,000 in all were present. The dresses were bright and attractive, and showed up well in the open air against the background of trees. Later in the afternoon, when the refreshment tents had in some degree begun to lose their attractions, the girls turned their attention to dancing.

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