

she can make a curry, she will be less likely to give the patients the beef-tea without salt; if she has nursed her mother, she will be more tenderly sympathetic towards her patients; and if she has had to help to make a small income go a long way, she will be less likely to waste the Hospital stores.

It is not necessary or possible for candidates to have any great knowledge of Anatomy and Physiology; only a little theoretical acquaintance is desired, together with a slight knowledge of Elementary Chemistry and such special and general knowledge as each Hospital may recommend. It is best for the Nurse that this should be acquired before she begins to do the manual and technical part of her work. During the first year's probation, the work is very hard, and the long hours of standing leaves her at the end of her day's work with body and mind so fatigued that comprehension is impossible; and there is the feeling of that "horrid skeleton" to be studied, and lectures to be written out. If, however, her theoretical examination has been passed before she entered the service of the Hospital, her leisure time may be pleasantly spent with friends or an entertaining book. With mind and body both refreshed, she can bring to, what is really the most important part of her work, a receptive and appreciative mind. The amount of knowledge required to pass a preliminary examination is no more than what an intelligent woman of fair education can easily acquire in three months, without any undue mental exertion. Thus, during the first year of probation, the Nurse will be fully occupied in acquiring a thorough knowledge of the practical and technical part of her profession without the harassment of study. In the second and third years, when habit and knowledge has made the work easy, then the theoretical study should be resumed, guided by lectures bearing on the nursing of cases immediately before the Nurse, and leading her a little farther on the road that her preliminary study had only allowed her to enter.

As to how the special education required by the Hospitals is to be obtained, must, I think, be left to each candidate to make the best of the opportunities within her reach. It will be a great assistance to them when they can have access to lectures bearing on the knowledge required, and a reference library, where they can consult expensive books they would not be able to purchase. Miss de Pledge says: "If a candidate be required to possess all these varied qualifications, I should humbly like to ask, in what her Hospital training will consist." Surely, she does not think that even the most learned of womankind (not excepting the Senior Wrangler in embryo) would find nothing to learn in a Hospital ward. She will, I am sure, agree with me, that no matter how good, kind, intelligent or well-educated a woman may be, no matter how much she knows of anatomy and physiology, no matter how highly her faculties may be trained, she is not a Nurse till she has added to those qualifications three years' experience in the wards of a Hospital, doing, with all her might, the practical work of a Nurse. This is needed to make the "Good Nurse," which term, to my mind, includes all that is good in woman, added to education, refinement and pleasant manners.

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St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.,
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Medical Matters.

A HARDY GERM.



Observations which have recently been made respecting the duration of life of the bacillus of diphtheria are of the greatest interest and importance. A wooden toy which had been used by a child affected with this disease, some six months previously, was washed in sterilized broth, from which injections were made, which were employed and used upon guinea pigs who died with all the symptoms of diphtheria, and in whom the typical bacilli were found. Further investigations which have been made in Norway and elsewhere, and in which every source of error has been carefully eliminated, have proved that the infection of diphtheria, that is to say, the life of its bacillus will persist and live for at least a year. It is therefore plain that the greatest care is necessary to destroy all sources of infection from patients affected with this disease; in other words, that the patient's surroundings and his excretions should be as carefully and as completely disinfected as is done in the case of those suffering from typhoid fever. A further interesting fact, which has been pointed out by observers, is that from the mouth and fauces of patients, who are apparently convalescent from diphtheria, and in whom, perhaps, the active symptoms have ceased for even three or four weeks, it is still possible to discover the typical bacillus; thus proving the extreme possibility of infection to others which such patients possess, even after the actual subsidence of all active symptoms in themselves. This again teaches the practical lesson that antiseptic mouth and throat washes should be used in such cases for some weeks after convalescence has apparently set in.

ELECTRICITY IN RHEUMATISM.

Several French observers have recently called attention to the good results which they have obtained by the use of electricity in cases of severe rheumatism, which had proved rebellious to all the ordinary forms of treatment. This is a revival of a treatment which used to find favour many years ago, but which fell into disuse and disrepute. Probably the reason of this, was that the treatment was used empirically, and as a routine measure without distinction or regard to the circumstances of different cases, and, consequently, failure frequently resulted. A similar ending came to the once in-

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