

great an invalid, he asked if some one else of good position and influence would not come. Ordinary mission work is stopped at Hiroshima; preaching places turned into Hospitals, soldiers quartered all over the town, all in great excitement. But the order is wonderful. The upstairs part (galleries?) of a Presbyterian Church has been turned into a Hospital, but no objection is made to the services going on as usual below, and the patients can hear every word. The Japanese are treating the prisoners well. Two large temples at Osaka are set aside to receive a large number. Another temple there is turned into a Hospital. But most of the hospital work is at Hiroshima, where the Emperor and Parliament are, as it is much nearer the scene of action, and they can get news better."

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ACROSS the *Trained Nurse* for December, "A Merry Christmas to you" is written on the special white and tasteful cover. The interior as usual contains many excellent articles, of which "The Organisation and Establishment of Training Schools in America is of interest:—

"In the United States, as far back as the close of the seventeenth century, Dr. Valentine Seaman gave systematic instruction to a class of two dozen Nurses of the New York Hospital. His course consisted of twenty-six lectures, chiefly upon midwifery, but including anatomy, physiology, and the care of children. A manikin was employed in demonstration. Among the topics of these lectures are digestion, absorption and secretion, the circulation, organs of special sense, etc. In the year 1800, a synopsis of these lectures, with full reports of several of them, was published in New York.—The Society of Friends, of Philadelphia, started a 'Nurse Society' in 1838, by which they aimed to improve the standard of Nursing, and to relieve the Catholic societies from doing all the work alone.—The Philadelphia Lying-in Charity has instructed Nurses in its special branch for nearly forty years.—St. Luke's Hospital, New York, has been supplied, since its foundation in 1853, with Nurses of the Protestant-Episcopal Order of the Holy Communion.—Various Lutheran charitable societies throughout the country have trained Nurses from time to time; and some two thousand of these Nurses were actively employed, among others, during the Rebellion. And in this connection the Nurses of the Sanitary Commission, and the efforts of Miss Clara Barton in relation with the American Association of the Red Cross, must always be applauded.—But it was not until 1873 that training schools were established, and in that year three were almost simultaneously formed at New York, New Haven, and Boston, and from this year dates the special impetus which has been given to the improvement of Nursing in the United States."

An article by Miss MARY A. BOLAND, on the subject of "Cooking in the Training School," is full of valuable information.

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THE inquiry into the management of the Nursing department of the New Union Infirmary at Lewisham was held on Wednesday and Thursday by Dr. DOWNES, on behalf of the Local Government Board, and we hope to be able next week to give a detailed report of the proceedings. We do not, of course, intend to enter into the personal aspect of this matter, but the dispute raises the immensely important question of the respective spheres of work of the Medical Superintendent and the Matron of a Workhouse Infirmary, and until these are properly defined such disputes will constantly and inevitably occur.

Medical Matters.

ANTITOXIN IN DIPHTHERIA.



We have already, in this column, described the new treatment for diphtheria, and various occurrences have brought the matter into greater prominence just at present. An important lecture was recently delivered upon this subject, and several most valuable facts were pointed out. During the year 1893 there were nearly 14,000 cases of diphtheria notified in London, of which 23,75 died out of every 100. The mean annual death-rate, therefore, from this disease, has steadily increased of late years, as well as the number who have suffered from it. It is a somewhat startling fact, for example, that in 1889 there were only 722 cases of diphtheria admitted into the Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, whereas in 1893 this number had risen to no less than 2,848, a fourfold extension in four years. Official figures prove that the percentage of mortality in these Hospitals has, however, diminished from 38 per hundred in 1882, to 29 per hundred in 1892, and that this compares very favourably with the results which have been obtained in various Paris and Berlin Institutions. Attention is drawn to the necessity that diagnosis of the case should be most accurately made, and that the results obtained from the antitoxin treatment in true diphtheria have been so remarkable, and often so successful, as to render the remedy undoubtedly one of the utmost value, and one, therefore, which it is incumbent upon medical men to employ whenever it is possible. There is, unfortunately, a certain amount of prejudice against the injection of organic fluids, and this may, to some extent, hinder the general employment of this particular remedy. But facts are too strong for sentiment, and we have little doubt that the antitoxin treatment of diphtheria will keep the position which it has already attained in the treatment of one of the most deadly epidemic diseases.

DOUBLE OVARIOTOMY.

Cases have recently been recorded in which it was necessary to perform a second operation for ovariectomy upon a patient from whom one ovarian tumour had already been removed. These draw attention to a question which is much discussed in gynæcological circles, as to the advisability or the mistake of removing both ovaries when one is found to be seriously diseased. It is admitted that there is a great tendency in these organs to bilateral mischief, and that when one ovary has been removed for gross disease, and the other left, it is by no means unusual for the patient, after the lapse of a certain number of months or years, to

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