

convalescents liked helping the Sisters in their work, and no speck of dust was visible anywhere. Of course, those who were really ill were worried a good deal by the turmoil of washing and scrubbing and dusting, and the perpetual 'turning out' and chronic spring-cleaning, but of course, this cannot be helped.

The convalescents were very good to their weaker brethren, and there was a nice Irishman in my ward whom I always liked to wash me. He did it so neatly and gently. The Sisters used to leave the wards a good deal to perform their devotions, and often for more than an hour there would be no one with us.

The loneliness of a ward is one of its worst features. I saw a man 40 years of age crying like a baby because everybody else had visitors and he had no one. It is a mistake to think that the patients will get tired if visitors come. They are always welcome, and even if they stay only five minutes it is an event in the patient's week of weariness.

On Sunday morning, at 6.30 a.m., all the convalescents had to march shivering into Chapel to attend Mass. What was the use?

Ginger-beer and ginger-ale flowed as freely as at a Band of Hope picnic. I suppose it is the recognised panacea for all diseases. There was a young man dying of heart failure, tossing on his bed, with the ghastly hue of approaching death in his face, and gasping for breath, to whom I administered doses of ginger-ale from a bottle placed near. He did not care as much for it as he ought to have done. I used to have a lot of it when I was in the ward, but it used to taste cold and dispiriting at four o'clock in the morning!

Amateur surgery was performed by the boy who ran the elevator. He put a blister on me which hurt like a bayonet wound for a fortnight. "Joey," an Italian boy who used to wash plates and dishes, take the food round to the patients, and do "odd jobs" generally, was very amusing. He used to come and talk to me at night and tell me his adventures in an unintelligible mixture of Italian and Yankee. They seemed to amuse *him* very much, and they might me if I had understood the lingo.

Exciting scenes used to occur. There were two or three delirium tremens patients in my ward who used to rave and talk nonsense and preach temperance sermons, keeping us awake at night. One crazy man tried to jump out of a window. Another one refused to drink his whisky, a daily allowance being ordered for him, and made himself so obnoxious that he had to be put in a kind of cage.

Another delirium tremens patient had a mania for going to heaven, and they used to send him up on the elevator, which completely satisfied his celestial yearnings. There was a boy who used to play the cornet in the top ward, and our maniacal friend was firmly persuaded by the other patients into the belief that this was the Angel Gabriel!

So that though the Hospital was shockingly managed, the food impossible, and the nursing *nil*, we managed to extract some amusement from the life. And after I was removed to a private room conditions mended somewhat. But my experiences have led me to ask if religion and Nursing cannot be combined? and to ask if it would not be possible for nuns and Sisters to have some definite training which would enable them to bestow some skilled Nursing on the patients during the brief intervals between Masses, Confessions, and Vespers?"

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

SOUTHALL'S SANITARY SPECIALITIES.

WE have been favoured with samples of Messrs. Southall's sanitary manufactures which deserve the careful attention of all Nurses. The sanitary sheet, which is composed of gauze, enclosing antiseptic wool, with tapes attached so that it can be pinned to an ordinary sheet, and so retained in position, is a most valuable production, and we would suggest that its use should not be merely confined, as it appears to be from the manufacturer's catalogue, to cases of accouchement, but that it would also prove very valuable in the treatment of many surgical cases, notably those of lumbar colotomy, perineal section and gynæcological operations. The prices are very moderate, and the sheets are made in various sizes. We strongly commend them to the notice of trained Nurses. The antiseptic sanitary towels are very valuable inventions of this firm, and the cremator which has been recently introduced by Messrs. Southall and Barclay for the combustion of these towels after use will be found most valuable, especially in private houses or when travelling. It consists of a tin cylinder, containing a wire cage, which holds the article to be destroyed, and a vessel for holding burning spirit. The whole apparatus is not only therefore safe in use, but it is so portable that it can be easily packed away in a travelling trunk. Nurses would do well to obtain from Messrs. Southall a list of their specialities, because they would find all these of much assistance to them in their work; and as we have already pointed out, we believe that their sanitary sheets might with advantage be employed in a larger variety of cases than has hitherto, apparently, been recommended.

CALIFORNIAN BORAX.

THIS is a preparation of borax which is in many ways the best at present obtainable. It is a pure refined powder, which therefore possesses in the greatest possible degree the antiseptic and emollient properties of the soda salt. It kills germs nearly as rapidly as the stronger antiseptics, but without the disagreeable odour of some, or the poisonous properties which detract so much from the usefulness of others. It is an ideal tooth-powder, mouth wash, and gargle; deodorises noxious matters, and can be used internally and externally with perfect safety. It is comparatively cheap, and is absolutely reliable and efficient. With all

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