

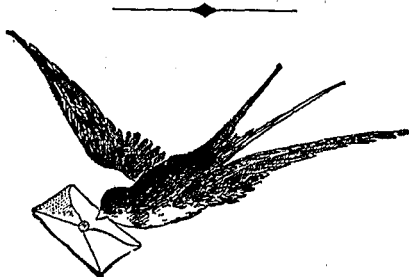
has, therefore, a northern exposure. The entrance at one corner is by a wide door, sliding noiselessly into the wall. The walls are composed of Keen's cement, hard and impermeable, painted almost white and varnished. The floor is of terazzo mosaic, which takes on a smooth polish. The corners of the room, and also the angles between walls and floor, are rounded off so that no dust or dirt lodges there, and all can be easily and thoroughly cleaned. The surfaces being all impermeable and smooth, the room may be hosed or scrubbed down after or before an operation, a grating and pipe being fitted in the floor to carry off the waste water. Light is provided by a large window, which takes up almost the whole of the north wall.

The sterilizing apparatus, which occupies the central position in the end wall is, however, the most interesting contrivance in the room. It has until recently been almost impossible to obtain a sufficient supply of water sterilized, and at a suitable temperature, for the washing of wounds and surgical cavities. This difficulty has been surmounted by the "White Berkefeld Aseptic Irrigator, an apparatus for supplying sterilized water of regulated temperature for use in surgical operations."

The other apparatus is for the sterilization of surgical instruments by boiling in a 1 per cent. soda solution. It consists of a metal box and tight-fitting lid. The instruments are arranged in network trays, placed in the box and immersed in a 1 per cent. soda solution. Heat from a gas jet is applied, and the solution brought to the boil. Five minutes' boiling, timed by a sand-glass provided, is allowed for blunt instruments.

It may be mentioned, in passing, that hot and cold water pipes when exposed in the room are painted in distinguishing colours, hot pipes red, and cold blue.

We should recommend all Matrons who can spare time to pay a visit to the Homoeopathic, and we can promise them they will be received most kindly, and much enjoy the experience.



### Our Australian Letter.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SOME changes have been taking place during the last few months in the Melbourne Nursing world. Miss Rathie, the Lady Superintendent of the Melbourne Hospital, was married in July to Dr. Cutts, a former hon. physician to the Institution. Miss Rathie had held her position for nearly six years; previous to this she had been a Sister at the Hobart Hospital, and was trained at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; she was the first trained Nurse who had been Matron of either of the General Hospitals in Melbourne. The

Night Superintendent was appointed acting Matron until another appointment could be arranged. Much good work was done, and duly appreciated, by the late Matron, and on her leaving the Hospital she was presented with a silver teapot as a wedding present by the Nursing staff. A long interregnum has passed before the new Matron was appointed and can go into office; Miss Farquharson, Matron of the Alfred Hospital, was elected on September 24th, and goes into office on November 1st. This was owing to the elections taking place of the numerous hon. medical staff in August, which was the principal thought at the Hospital, and it was considered advisable to let that excitement subside before the Matronship was decided.

Nurses can sympathise with their fellow-workers when they think of the anxiety of nursing staffs in the different Hospitals here, wondering "Who will be placed over us." Next came the Alfred Hospital election for their Matron, and all hope that a most satisfactory choice has been made. Miss Ayeres, Matron of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, Tasmania, was unanimously elected. She seems to have made a most favourable impression on all who met her in Melbourne, and is, I hear, much beloved in her present sphere. Miss Ayeres trained at Bristol Infirmary and St. George's, and for some months prior to her coming out to the Colonies, she was a Sister at Charing Cross Hospital. On coming to the Colonies, Miss Ayeres took duty as an Acting-Sister at Hobart Hospital in Tasmania, and from there she passed on (still in the Government Service) to be Assistant Matron at the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk, being promoted to the Matronship later on, and has held the latter position for some years.

Miss Farquharson has very wisely, during her term of Matronship at the Alfred Hospital, firmly discouraged the system of presentations of gifts on the part of her Nurses—feeling quite as secure of their goodwill and affection without this form of expression. But on her return from her holidays, and upon her departure to her new sphere of work at the Melbourne Hospital, she received charming marks of esteem and affection from her pupils and the women servants at the Alfred Hospital, the former being a complete silver afternoon tea service, and from the servants a very handsome writing desk.

The Sisters trained under Miss Farquharson's own superintendence—"her own children"—waited till the morning of her departure, when they placed on her dressing table their tokens of love—silver spoons, sugar tongs and serviette ring.

Later on, she also received a most gratifying and very prettily illuminated testimonial from the Committee; so she goes to begin her new work followed by abundance of good wishes from her old Hospital.

The parting between the Matron and her staff was one of sincere mutual regret. But it was wisely arranged, and no formal "good-bye" was said. A bright, pretty gathering of Nurses and servants was held the night before Miss Farquharson left the Hospital, and the separation took place without any formal and gloomy leave-taking, or even "good-night." All agreed that separation was an act of duty, and that it must be bravely borne, and it is in this spirit that Miss Farquharson enters upon her wider, and therefore more useful sphere of work at the Melbourne Hospital, which contains 310 beds.

During the past month, a most sad occurrence has

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)