

A Preliminary Peep.

DURING the past week we have been delighted to inspect the contents of the various boxes which have so kindly been forwarded to us by the matrons of various London and County Hospitals, containing exhibits for the Nursing Exhibition. We would specially point out to those who intend to pay the Exhibition a visit a few of the articles—from which much is to be learnt. First we would draw their attention to the photographs of the limited number of institutions for which we can find space. Nothing can demonstrate more significantly the progress in our nursing schools than the sight of pictures of beautiful new Homes and Hospitals lately built. The Blackburn Infirmary group, the Home in connection with the Nurses' Institution, Stoke-on-Trent, the charming interior and exterior of St. Helena Home, London, show the care now bestowed upon the home life of our Nurses. In the General Nursing Appliances Section, will be found Miss Marion Pincoff's most comprehensive Hold-all, for the use of Private Nurses, made by Messrs. Arnold, of Smithfield. The Registered Nurse's uniform box, designed by Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, which can be carried in the hand, and in which aprons, caps, bonnet, frilling and "bimbones" can repose in ample space, ready packed for "the next case."

Mrs. Fenwick's ward basket, lined and covered with American cloth, and containing requisites for cleansing and the toilet, should prove an aid to order in the ward.

St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, and the Metropolitan, the Hospitals for Sick Children, Gt. Ormond Street, Shadwell, and Pendlebury, vie with one another in excellent specimens of splint padding. Mrs. Walter Lakin, late of St. Bartholomew's, exhibits almost a complete set of made bandages, and amongst other articles a flannel dress she has designed for burn cases, and an operation suit—the workmanship of everything she sends being exquisite.

Patterns might be taken with advantage, of the cataract bandage from Moorfields, and of the skull-caps from the Hospital for Paralysis, Regent's Park.

The specimen Cases in cots sent in by the London Homœopathic Hospital will, we are sure, be a great feature of the Exhibition. After a visit to this Hospital, where we were privileged to have a private view of these exhibits, we came away wondering where the Matron obtains her Probationers. First of all, the spirit of the head, we imagine, pervades the Hospital, and one is always sure of a courteous welcome from whichever member of the staff may be on duty.

We have been to a Hospital where the Staff Nurse of the ward persistently remained seated at a table half-way up the ward with her back to us, and shouted at us, "What do you want?"; and therefore the courtesy of the Homœopathic is all the more refreshing by contrast. Then the wards, and especially the children's ward, seem a very paradise for the patients, and the time spent in the Hospital will, we imagine, remain a sunny memory with all of them. But again, where does Miss Brew obtain her Probationers? Fine needlework and laundry work are not accomplishments usually made much of, in these days. The time which was formerly devoted to acquiring these arts is now for the most part spent on preparation for Cambridge Local and College of Preceptors' Examinations; another hour or so a day is devoted to music, with a fine disregard of the capacity for learning on the part of the pupil, and such homely acquirements as needlework, cookery, and clear starching, are crowded out of the educational curriculum, in the struggle after a universal smattering of Latin, Algebra, Botany, Political Economy, Geology, and Zoology, which are for the most part speedily forgotten as soon as the school days are over.

But still the Homœopathic Nurses one and all seem accomplished needlewomen. The visitor need only look at the exquisite workmanship of the sheets and pillow-cases of the model cots at the Exhibition, or at the dressing-gowns of the dolls, their miniature pocket-handkerchiefs, and the tiny doctor's towels, to be convinced of the truth of this statement, and when she sees further the way in which the linen is "got up," its colour, smoothness, and exquisitely fresh and dainty appearance, she will wonder if a preliminary course of training in a French laundry is a necessary qualification for would-be Probationers at the Homœopathic Hospital. The secret of the high standard of the work of this Hospital is, we believe, due to the fact that from the Matron downwards everyone takes a real interest and pride in it, and it is evidently put in the first and chiefest place with them, and all other interests take a very subordinate part. In these days, when so many Nurses live double lives, when their Hospital work is their "duty," and their aim seems to be to get every fraction of the time due to them off duty, and as many extra passes as by their persuasive powers they are able to obtain, it is refreshing to visit a Hospital where the pleasures and interests of the Nurses are evidently centred in the same place as their work.

Mildmay Mission Hospital is also famous for little "nursing dodges," and their contribution of a camphor jacket, shaped poultice jacket, natty porringer top, and crocheted lace strainer,

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