

It is about an hour's journey from the city, which is accomplished by tram-car, by mules, or electricity.

The Hospital was opened for patients on January 8th, 1893, and then contained 30 beds, all the patients being paid for. In September of that year the Nurses' Châlet was completed, which contained six bed-rooms, bath-room, and extra sitting-room, and lovely verandah overlooking the bay, these communicating with the Hospital by a covered way.

In the first and second year it was thought sufficient to have a staff of Matron and four Nurses, with untrained assistants, but as the Hygiene authorities now compel yellow fever to be completely isolated, the staff has been increased from four trained Nurses to six, who have all the nursing to do, the sweeping and other work being done by men-servants.

The Hospital contains one large ward and ten private wards; the Isolation Block the same.

During the months of December to May the work is very hard, and the cases are, for the most part, yellow-fever. If there is any doubt about a case, it is put in the Observation Ward for at least 12 hours; sometimes, not very often, it turns out to be malarial.

From June to November the weather is simply lovely, the thermometer between 66° and 70°, and in those months the Nurses are expected to take private nursing, as sometimes the Hospital contains only three patients.

Yellow fever being the one disease of the country, I will give just a few particulars. It very often commences with rigor, and in most cases with a most severe head-ache and pains in the back and legs, the head-ache remaining for about three days; temperature from 39° to 41° C. If the patient goes to bed at the first symptom there is every chance for his recovery. Large doses of calomel and castor oil are given, followed by gentle aperients, and Vichy water or iced water to drink until the temperature is normal, when diluted milk is given, and food gradually increased as in typhoid. One of the most fatal complications is anuria, the patient generally dying about the fifth day in convulsions.

Bleeding from all the mucous membranes is quite a common complication, but that is generally stopped by four drops of ferri. perchlor. and one drop of iodine every two hours in ten grammes of iced water. I must not forget to mention the constant washing out of the intestines with tepid or cold water, with either tincture of eucalyptus or turpentine. The only stimulant that the doctor cares to give is iced champagne in case of excessive vomiting, and weak pulse. Generally, stimulants are avoided until the patient's temperature is normal, and a case of yellow fever, without complication, is convalescent and discharged by the tenth day. It is most interesting work, and requires very good nursing.

In conclusion, let me say any nurses who have a wish to come out to Brazil will find it very hard work for some months in the year, with a great many drawbacks that are not found in our English Hospitals at home. I have been there nearly four years, and am returning again to work in the Hospital there with a Board of Directors who are most kind and considerate for their Nurses, and take every interest in them and their work.

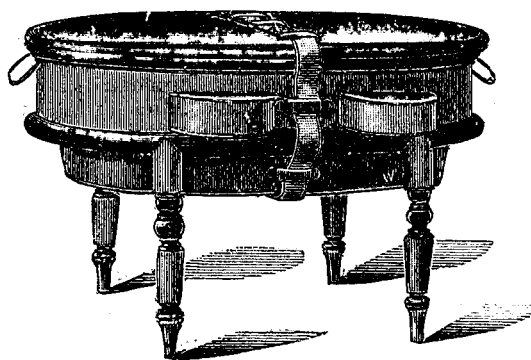
Nurses have daily time off duty, and twenty-four hours once a month, and one month during the cool season.

M. R. B. N. A.

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

BATHS.

OUR attention has been drawn to the excellence of the Baths manufactured by Messrs. R. & W. Wilson & Sons, of 90, Wardour Street, W. They are of great variety and most useful forms, varying from movable full-sized baths—which are, we learn, largely supplied to Hospitals and Infirmaries—to small tubs for infants, arranged on tables,



and which would be found very handy for travelling. This firm also makes a speciality of other Hospital requisites, and its illustrated catalogue proves that in price its manufactures compare very favourably with those of other firms. Those of our Matron readers who are in Institutions would do well to obtain one of these catalogues when next engaged in re-furnishing.

AN ABDOMINAL CORSET.

IT is a well-known difficulty to obtain a Belt, which shall afford support to weakened abdominal walls, especially after confinements, or such operations as ovariectomy, or even when, in consequence of middle age, the deposit of fat amongst the muscles has relaxed the tissues. Such Belts under the corsets often press the latter forward and cause discomfort and no advantage. Madame Festa, of 63, Grosvenor Street, W., the well-known Corset maker, has introduced a Corset which, to a large extent, obviates this difficulty. An elastic and well-shaped Belt is attached to the lower edge of an excellently made corset, and thus a uniform and firm support is given to the whole abdominal walls. The invention is a practical and most useful one, and we commend it to the notice of our readers.

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