

Hospital Matters.

MEDALS OF MERIT.

THE REV. EDWARD HANDLEY has given yet another proof of his devotion to the best interests of the Royal United Hospital, Bath. He has decided upon giving a gold and silver medal each year to the two Nurses who distinguish themselves most during their three years' training. The maximum number of marks is 400, distributed as follows: Medical nursing 100, surgical nursing 100, and general conduct 200. The first two medals, won, were presented on Monday by the President, the gold medal being given to Nurse Rachel Pryce Jones, and the silver medal to Nurse Mary Alabaster. The medals, with crimson ribbons attached, are of very handsome design, bearing on the obverse a reproduction of the seal of the Hospital, and on the reverse the name of the winner.

NEW OPERATING THEATRES.

SOME of the operating theatres of our London Hospitals are distinctly obsolete. But recently so much stress has been laid on the necessity of asepsis at operations, that Boards of Managers are waking to the necessity of being up-to-date in the theatres of their Hospitals. We hope soon to describe the beautiful little theatre which is being fitted up in connection with the Martha ward at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. St. George's Hospital can now boast of two admirable theatres, which fulfil all the necessary requirements of aseptic surgery. The walls and ceilings are entirely lined with glazed tiles, and all the angles are rounded off so as to admit of easy and thorough cleansing. The floors are of marble mosaic, and an unusual feature is the fact that the students' benches are made of white marble—wood of course not being at all hygienic and sanitary. All the air from without is filtered and warmed by somewhat elaborate means before it passes into the theatre, and the lighting is electrical throughout. The instrument cases are after the Middlesex Hospital pattern, and it is enacted that all the instruments shall be marked "theatre," and may never be taken from their places to be used in other parts of the building.

EDUCATION BY HYPNOTISM.

THERE is a very interesting article by Dr. Osgood Mason in the October number of the *North American Review* on the "Educational Uses of Hypnotism." He instances a very

striking case whereby he "converted a criminal lunatic into a Hospital Nurse!" We quote the case as described by Dr. Mason:—

"In the summer of 1884, there was at the Salpêtrière a young woman of a deplorable type—a criminal lunatic, filthy in habits and violent in demeanour, and with a life-long history of impurity and theft. M. Auguste Voisin, one of the physicians of the Hospital Staff, undertook to hypnotise her at a time when she could be kept quiet only by the strait-jacket and the continuous cold douche to the head. She would not look at the operator, but raved and spat at him. M. Voisin, however, kept his face close to hers, and followed her eyes wherever she moved them. In ten minutes she was asleep, and in five minutes more she passed into the sleep-walking or somnambulant state, and began to talk incoherently. This treatment being repeated on many successive days, she gradually became sane when in the hypnotic condition, though she still raved when awake. At length, she came to obey in her waking hours commands impressed upon her in her trance—trivial matters, such as to sweep her room—then suggestions involving marked changes in her behaviour; finally, in the hypnotic state, she voluntarily expressed regret for her past life, and of her own accord made good resolutions for the future, which she carried out when awake; and the improvement in her conduct and character was permanent. Two years later, M. Voisin wrote that she was a Nurse in a Paris Hospital, and that her conduct was irreproachable."

There is no question as to the remarkable character of the case thus described, but we should not be inclined to agree that Hospitals would be wise to recruit their Nurses from the ranks of criminal lunatics, even when "hypnotised and converted."

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT TORONTO.

TORONTO is one of the largest and the most charming cities of Canada. The Hospital for sick children at Toronto is one of the most interesting of the Charities of that city. It occupies a modern, beautiful, and substantial building on College Street, in a desirable part of Toronto. The Hospital has a capacity of 160 beds, but the average attendance during 1895 was 79, and the total number of patients 534. Their average stay in the Hospital was 54 days. The average cost per day for each invalid was 76 cents. (3s. 2d.) The report of the Inspector of Charities for the province of Ontario shows that 37 per cent. of the expenses of Hospitals of Ontario is defrayed by appropriations by the legislature. An important adjunct to the Hospital is the summer home at Lakeside.

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