

A Model Theatre.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital is very proud of the model new Gynæcological Theatre attached to Martha Ward. Mr. Harrison Cripps, the eminent abdominal surgeon, has generously presented this theatre to the Hospital, and he has taken deep personal interest in its many aseptic perfections and absolute sanitation. The floor is of mosaic in small squares, of a whitish colour, calculated to show the least speck of dust, while the walls being of alabaster, and the ceiling enamelled, it is a very simple matter for the whole room to be thoroughly scrubbed down and disinfected. There is not an inch of this theatre which could harbour a microbe without its immediate and ignominious detection and consequent rout. The operating-table is of glass, as, indeed are all the tables throughout, while the instruments, which one sees at a glance, include all Mr. Cripps's own favourites and special inventions; the cases containing them are warranted dust-proof. All the cold water used in the theatre is distilled, the hot water, of course, being sterilised. The steriliser for the instruments is of the latest pattern, as indeed are all the fittings, which we note are by those excellent makers, Messrs. Maw, Son & Thompson and Messrs. Arnold. The washstand is of marble, and we noted some flat wide rubber rings, which can be boiled, for use on the washstand, so that basins with sponges, &c., placed suddenly on the marble, rest on the rubber and escape the risk of being broken.

The Age Question.

SOME REMEDIES.

IT is difficult to refrain, when writing an article on this subject, from comment on the apparently accepted axiom that women are past work of value when they have reached the age at which it has been pointed out man is just approaching the beginning of his career.

If we allow there is any foundation for the "axiom" we must also allow that the woman movement is "played out." We must go further. We must bow our heads and acknowledge that woman is a degenerate, and that she is inferior to man. If her resources are so soon exhausted, her energies so quickly tired, let her return to her darning of stockings and a chimney corner, and never again lift her diminished head!

Leaving this side of the question, we come now to the very serious consideration that a Nurse cannot be properly said to begin her self-supporting professional career till she is about twenty-seven years of age. Now, at twenty-seven no woman should be beginning her career. She ought to be well on in it with firmly-established position. But this can be the case with a Nurse only if she begins her training at eighteen years of age.

At once there will be strong dissent from this proposition. But it is not logical dissent. For girls of eighteen enter as medical students; and their lives are far harder than are the lives of Hospital Nurses. We hear a good deal about the strain of the examinations which the modern Nurse must undergo. But they are mere child's-play compared with the examinations which the girl-students undergo. "Yes," say the objectors to the proposal that Probationers should enter Hospital at student age, "but think of the physical strain the Nurses have which the students do not have!" But that is just the point. The students have an enormous physical strain in standing the whole day long in the dissecting rooms: later they clerk and dress in the wards. And, added to this strain, long after the Nurses are sleeping comfortably in their beds at night, the girl medical students are grinding and cramming for examinations often till the small hours. And the girl student can take her degree at twenty-two; while under the regulations adopted by most Training Schools, the Nurse cannot take her comparatively easy, simple, elementary certificate till she is twenty-six or twenty-seven. This I regard as the real grievance in the Nursing world. And I feel sure that the health standard of Nurses would be raised if they began their work, discipline, and training at student, rather than advanced adult, age.

A WOMAN STUDENT.

Breay v. Browne.

OUR readers will remember that, at the Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association last July, Sir James Crichton-Browne, who was in the Chair, would not allow Miss Breay to propose a Resolution, of which she had given due and sufficient notice, on the ground that the letter in which she sent the notice had not been "registered." Last January, Sir James Crichton-Browne, by a quibble, prevented a Resolution of great importance to the Association being proposed at the General Council Meeting. On the repetition of this offence it was therefore felt that the

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