

## The Hospital World.

### SURGERY SYSTEMS.

#### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

Those who remember the surgery at St. Bartholomew's during the *régime* of "the Fairies," a *régime* in force not many years since, would scarcely recognise it since the transformation has taken place. "The Fairies" were two humorous Irishwomen of ample dimensions, arrayed in brown stuff dresses, and were—well, not *new* nurses of whom we hear so much now-a-days. Doubtless they did excellent work in their own way, and probably none would be more astonished at the present standard of excellence attained, or more appreciative of it, than themselves. Now it is found that there is plenty of work to keep a Surgery Sister, four day Nurses, and two night Nurses employed. "Sister Surgery" lives in, as well as evidently for her work, and I was ushered into a cosy little sitting room above the wards. Sister soon appeared, and most kindly showed me the whole department under her care, and fully explained everything. There are here two small wards, one for men and one for women, each containing two beds, and I was told it is very seldom that they are empty, as, indeed, the following figures will prove. During the past year 533 patients have been admitted into these wards, besides many others who come in to lie down for a few hours. As no patient remains in the casualty department for more than twenty-four hours, and all are washed, and have, in addition, some—often much—nursing treatment, it will be seen that this involves a large amount of work. The patients who are admitted are those who are so seriously ill that it is manifest that nothing further can be done, except to render their last hours as comfortable as possible, doubtful cases, and cases which are so slight that it is not considered necessary to admit them to the wards. Of the 533 admissions mentioned above, 190 were taken into the Hospital within twenty-four hours; 303 were passed on to infirmaries or sent home, and 40 died. The proportion of men to women admitted was large, the numbers being 350 men and 183 women. In addition to these wards there is another below the out-patient department, where infectious cases are temporarily received.

Space fails me to describe in full the arrangements of the out-patient department at this

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Hospital, which is under the care of the same Sister. It must suffice to say that I came away much impressed with the completeness and perfection of the system. The various rooms are kept in order by the nurses, the brasses glitter like gold, and the pewter bowls are polished to the highest point of perfection. The dispensary in connection with this special branch is also most fascinating. Every jar has its place, and the drawers, the handles of which shine like the rest of the brass in the place, are stocked with nursing requisites, including splints of all sorts and sizes, padded, I was told, mostly by the night nurses. I left Sister Surgery with reluctance, and felt that I should like to spend days with her, studying the methods by which Surgery Nursing had arrived at that pitch of excellence to which it has attained under her wise *régime*."

#### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

At this Hospital the Out-patient and Casualty Department are under the care of one of the All Saints' Sisters. Wishing to obtain some information about it I called on the Sister Superior, who, with the ready courtesy which one is always sure of receiving from a religious Sister, took me down to the casualty department. The Nursing staff in this Hospital allotted to this branch of the work is one Sister, five day nurses, and one night nurse. There is electric communication between the casualty department and two of the wards, and the night nurse can always procure the services of the probationer in whichever of these wards is not on duty, should she require them. The two head nurses of the casualty department do day and night duty alternately. There are two cubicles which are used in the day for small operations or obstetric examinations, into which every night two beds are wheeled. From 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. they are therefore available for emergency cases. This arrangement is necessitated by the need for economising space in this Hospital.

There is a thoughtful provision made in connection with the midwifery department. Sitting on a form were a row of children and women with jugs. They proved to be waiting for the daily supply of milk or beef tea, which the production of an order from the student attending the case, entitles the patient to receive for seven days after confinement. The amount allowed is a pint daily. Those who know how often convalescence is retarded amongst poor working women for lack of proper nourishment at a time when they specially need it, will appreciate the wisdom and kindness of this provision.

M. B.

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