

Manchester, Bournemouth, Tunbridge Wells, Grimsby, Reading, Derby, Cheltenham, and Guildford, and from many other places; so that it may now be concluded that the Home has met quite a national want, and one which could not have been provided for, excepting by the great generosity of Mrs. Lionel Lucas, who has not only given the freehold of the beautiful house, but constantly contributed most liberally, in large donations, to meet the necessary expenses—expenses which, but for the careful administration, would have been much higher.

Before us we have numbers of letters from those who have stayed at 12, Sussex Square, one and all expressive of gratitude. In one we read: "Just a few lines to thank you heartily for my happy little visit; my next will feel to me like going home." From another—"With love and many thanks for the *most* delightful time we were able to enjoy; the lovely Home! it was a great boon." Again—"Thank you so much for all your kindness to me while staying at the Home. I never enjoyed a week so much, and hope I shall be able to spend my next holiday with you." And—"I think we all felt pretty sad that our pleasant holiday was at an end. . . . I must thank you very much for your kindness to me, and for the very pleasant visit which I have had, and which I shall certainly repeat, if you will have me." Again—"I do thank you from my heart for your great kindness to me while I was with you; and I firmly trust that some day I may come again—how I should love to be by the sea to-day." A most kind matron, writing about a sister, says—"I feel I must thank you again for your great kindness to my sister; it is such a comfort to think what a happy home she has found in Sussex Square. I am sure her stay with you must have done her a great deal of good. It was so very kind of you to let me come and see her. I greatly enjoyed my visit." A Scotch matron writes—"I shall always have such pleasant memories of the *Home of Rest*, which in reality it is, and hope I may be privileged to again stay there. Accept my most sincere thanks." All of these letters are just the testimony the committee and subscribers require, from those who visit the home, to convince them that the Institution is of real value to nurses, and to encourage all responsible to keep the Home up to the high standard of "homeliness" to which it has attained.

The Nursing of Abdominal Operations.

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IT is not too much to say that the success which has, within recent years, been obtained in various critical abdominal operations, has depended almost as much upon the subsequent care taken of the patient as upon the surgical skill with which the operation was performed. The fact is an important one for nurses to realize, because, while many surgeons have acquired the necessary technique, there are comparatively few nurses who have had much experience in attendance upon such patients; and as the area of abdominal operations is constantly increasing, as new methods of procedure are discovered and adopted, so it is becoming more and more necessary for all nurses to be acquainted with the principles upon which such patients are tended.

Formerly, for example, the medical nurse who was attending upon a patient suffering from ulcer of the stomach might feel that the knowledge of abdominal operations was unnecessary to her. But, within the last few months, it has been proved to be possible to operate successfully upon a patient suffering from the fatal occurrence known as perforation of the stomach, by such an ulcer, and so to avert an almost inevitably fatal issue. In like manner, it is probable that, in future, patients suffering from perforation of the bowels in typhoid fever may be operated upon and saved. Other examples might be given, but these are sufficient to prove that any nurse engaged in attendance upon such typical medical cases might find herself called upon to nurse a peculiarly dangerous form of abdominal operation.

It has been suggested, therefore, to the writer, that one or two lectures might be given with some advantage on the subject of nursing these cases. At the outset, it must be understood that the first essential is absolute asepticism and cleanliness, when an abdominal operation has to be performed. It is well, therefore, that the patient's room should have as little furniture as possible, that the carpets should be removed and the floors and doors washed with carbolic soap, the windows cleaned, and, if possible, the room thoroughly fumigated with sulphur. The

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