

Each child who has worn a jacket before has had it removed by the united efforts of its family on the previous night at home, and has received a good scrubbing with soap and water: he is, therefore, preternaturally clean and in good order for inspection, and he accepts with dignity the congratulations of Sister and her attendants on his beautiful appearance. The party of little chatterers, being now undressed and wrapped in dressing-gowns and blankets, sit round the fires to await the arrival of the great man. He will probably be late—what great man is ever punctual?—and the resources of the department, in the way of amusement, will be well drawn upon, before a solemn hush and a lengthening of faces announces the rumoured fact, "He's come, and is a washin' of his 'ands!" and then the work begins in earnest.

"Look at the clock when I touch the first bandage," he says, as Sister fastens him up in his apron and sleeves, "and see how long we take. Fifteen of them, are there? My goodness! why did you ask so many?"

"But they all sorely need their jackets," pleads the Sister, "and you promised—"

"Well, well," says the kind-hearted man, relenting, "sharp to work, then!" and sharp work it was. Each little one is first brought in and examined—the babies on the surgeon's knee—notes of their cases made, the mothers' stories listened to, as far as human patience will permit; and as each case is decided upon, handed back into the waiting-room, to have its vest and pads adjusted by the attendants. Then we begin with the bigger and more experienced children first, *pour encourager les autres*, because they don't cry. Mounted on a box covered with mackintosh, and holding by both hands to a handle which hangs above their heads, they stand patiently while the jacket is rapidly and skilfully put on. The bandages are gurgling and bubbling in a basin on one side, while a practised hand manipulates them into the perfection of soft sliminess, and then each little victim is laid out to dry beside the fire, and to watch in sleepy contentment the struggles of those who come after.

Some surgeons put on these jackets while the patient is in a recumbent position, and this, in the case of timid children, is often less alarming to them, and is certainly less fatiguing to the operator. I suppose the ancient hanging process, which must have been the acme of terror and discomfort, is now quite out of fashion. I only witnessed it once, and do not wish to do so again.

Fifteen jackets in an hour and a-half—big boys of twelve and thirteen, and baby things, whose tears and lamentations make them harder to do. And splendid jackets they were, shiny and smooth

to the last degree; no hurting at the hips, no shoving up at the arm-pits, calculated to last with ordinary care for months to come. As they dry, the Sister goes round among the recumbent figures, and marks the date on each jacket with a paint-brush and ink, and before dusk the little ones are proceeding on their divers ways home, each snugly encased in his new armour of proof, to be, at any rate for that evening, an object of curiosity and admiration to the "ladies and gentlemen up our court." M. F. E. H.

NURSING ECHOES.

. Communications (duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith) are especially invited for these columns.

THE meeting of the B.N.A., on Friday last, was, like each previous gathering, very successful and most interesting. The room was, as usual, quite crowded by Nurses, but there were also about half-a-dozen Doctors present. I am told that one of the leading supporters, when invited to come to these meetings, laughed, and said: "No! I am at the Association's service for work; but, for mere talking, the ladies surely need no assistance from me or any other man." Perhaps the Doctors would be surprised to find how diffident Nurses are, however, at "mere talking." However, there was a decided improvement in this respect last Friday. Dr. Sturges' paper was most interesting and practical, and in the discussion which followed it a good many Nurses took part, including Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Graham, Miss Spring, Miss Catherine J. Wood, Miss Meyrick, and Mrs. Robinson. Mr. Editor tells me that he hopes to be able to print the paper *in extenso* next week, with the subsequent discussion, so I need not refer to it here at further length.

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SPEAKING of the Association reminds me that I am told that it has found for itself a local habitation. Most of my readers probably know that it has hitherto been provided with office and other accommodation at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, by the practical kindness of Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. But it seems that the flourishing state of its finances has justified the Committee in removing to No. 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, situated on the south side of Oxford Street, a few doors to the east of Oxford Circus. I hear that they are very convenient rooms, and that the office hours are in future to be from ten a.m. to four p.m., except Saturday, when they close at one p.m. Also that Miss Wood will be there on Wednesdays, from six to nine p.m., to see Nurses who

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