

Professional Review.

GENERAL NURSING.

WE have received from Messrs. Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Paternoster House, Charing Cross Road, S.W., a copy of "General Nursing," by Miss Eva C. E. Lückes, Matron to the London Hospital, price 5s. The book is not entirely new, having been first published in 1884; but it has now we learn, been re-written, and its form altered. The preface to the book, is of interest, as explaining the views of the Matron of one of our largest training schools for nurses, upon the nursing problems of the present time,—views which she earnestly pleads with London trained nurses to propagate in their turn.

If we examine the principles which the London nurses are asked to uphold and promulgate, they are: (1) That the personal character of the nurse is of the utmost importance, and on this subject there can be no two opinions. But the task of selecting the type of probationer who shall subsequently do credit to the nursing profession is rightly left to the Matrons of the training schools, and this work, together with that of eliminating the unfit before they arrive at the period of certification, is one of their most responsible duties. (2) Miss Lückes holds that "Those who put their faith in registers and examinations as a means of judging whether a woman possesses those qualities which alone can make her services acceptable in the sick room are no nearer solving the problem" of obtaining satisfactory nurses. But examinations at least test the nurse's theoretical knowledge, and registers at least define some standard to which the nurse has attained, both results being of obvious advantage to the public. The authorities of the London Hospital have shown that they understand the advantage of testing the theoretical knowledge of pupils, and this Hospital at present enjoys the distinction of having instituted the only preliminary training school in England. This argument will therefore, we think, not bear dissection; and, further, we are offered no alternative in place of such examination.

The first chapter deals with the qualifications which are requisite in trained nurses, and points out the failings to which nurses are specially liable, and which, if indulged in, will bring discredit upon their calling. The author then proceeds to point out the necessity, in a nurse, of the virtues of punctuality, truthfulness, obedience, and loyalty. Hospitals manners are then touched upon, a very necessary subject, for nurses' manners are, at the present time frequently the cause of much unfavourable criticism. The care of the nurse's health receives a share of attention, and a warning is given against grumbling, a pet failing of trained nurses.

The distinction between the work of doctors and nurses is explained, and the unquestionable truth asserted that the diagnosis of the case, and the laying down of a scientific plan of treatment are the province of the doctor. On this, all will be agreed. The beds in which patients are nursed, being of much importance, receive due attention; and the size, shape, height, etc., are discussed, besides the various special beds for fractures and so on. The proper method of washing patients is next dealt with as well as the most efficient means of cleansing dirty heads, and the prevention of bed-sores. The important matter of

feeding patients receives attention, as well as the necessity for a nurse to watch carefully the amount of sleep obtained by her patients. Chapter VII. deals with splints and bandages and their application. Then follows a chapter on cold and heat as remedial agents, and another on the various baths and packs. The application of fomentations and poultices is also dealt with, and the principle of counter irritation explained. The best methods of dressing wounds are also commented upon.

The next chapter treats of the taking of temperatures, the giving of enemata of various kinds, nasal feeding, and the right method of passing a catheter, washing out the bladder, and of giving vaginal and hypodermic injections. The reception of accident cases, the right means of dealing with sudden hæmorrhage while waiting for arrival of the doctor also receive attention, as well as the nursing of cases of delirium tremens, drunkenness, fainting, drowning, burns, and erysipelas.

The proper method of administering medicines is explained in detail, and the right course to adopt in dealing with various cases of poisoning. The chief matters which a nurse will be expected to observe and report upon, in connection with her patients, are also detailed, and then follows some information as to the surroundings of the patient, the necessity of ventilation, and the best methods of warming and lighting sick-rooms. One chapter deals with the nurse's duty to the dead, and to the friends of deceased patients, and two with the nursing of operation cases.

Considerable space is devoted to the nursing of infectious cases, and the nursing of medical cases is touched upon.

The last chapter is devoted to the nursing of children, a subject which frequently receives scant attention. We do not doubt that probationers will find the volume of use to them in their studies.

Preparations, Inventions, etc.

MINCASEA.

THIS term has been given to a patent food for infants and invalids which has only recently been brought to our notice, although we understand that it had been manufactured for some years. It is stated to be prepared solely from milk, and to contain no farinaceous compound of any sort. Analysis proves that it resembles very closely mothers' milk, and it should, therefore, be an excellent substitute for it in the rearing of children, whose mothers are unable to nurse them. We have given it a good trial, and find that it is well taken by infants, and that they thrive upon it. This was especially the case in one instance in which a child had greatly wasted in consequence of improper dieting, and rejected all ordinary foods, especially cow's milk. He took Mincasea well and quickly improved, gaining weight rapidly, and in a few days the gastric irritability disappeared. Theoretically and practically, therefore, we can commend it to the notice of the nursing profession. It can be obtained from any chemist.

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