

which the medicine closet and stimulants are kept. The third chapter deals with the care of the ward and all its contents, and gives details as to the supply of linen necessary, with the best methods of keeping up the stock. A patient's toilet basket, with which it is recommended that each nurse should be supplied is also described, and an illustration of it given.

The book then goes on to deal with beds and bed making, hygiene, the care of new patients, and the listing of their clothes, the prevention of bed-sores, convalescence, and the care of the dead. The various baths are then described. Disinfectant solutions and their preparation are dealt with, and the metric system which is used universally, except in this country, is explained. Then follow some bacteriological notes, together with instructions as to the disinfection of clothing, rooms, furniture, wards, excreta, sputum, and vessels. The next chapter treats of enemata, of various kinds of douches, and catheterization, and a whole chapter is devoted to the taking of temperatures, pulses, and respirations, with the care of the thermometer, and to charting and recording notes. The differences between Fahrenheit, Centigrade, and Réaumur scales are explained, and much information concerning pulses which it is important to nurses to possess is given. External application, hot and cold, and counter-irritants, are then dealt with. An excellent chapter follows on medicines, the methods of administration, the care of medicine closets, and so on. Then comes a chapter on surgical nursing, aseptic and antiseptic surgery, the preparation and after care of operation cases, the method of healing of wounds and the best methods of arranging surgical rounds. The various hæmorrhages, the principles of bandaging, and various accidents, with the first aid which should be rendered are described in detail, and a chapter is devoted to medical emergencies. The important part played by suitable diet in aiding recovery is insisted upon, and the best methods of feeding patients described, and the duty of administering food punctually and in an inviting form is emphasized. The next chapter deals with the administration of anæsthetics and some valuable remarks are made on observing and recording symptoms. "It is essential for a nurse from the beginning of her hospital work to cultivate the faculty of observation, and this quality should extend not only to the particular symptoms of her patients but to every detail of the work pertaining to their welfare."

A chapter is devoted to obstetrics, and another to the nursing of children, beginning with the new born infant, the feeding of infants, and the disorders of infancy, and going on to the various diseases of childhood. Then follows a chapter on the Urine, its appearance in health and disease, and the various conditions which should be noted by nurses. The various infectious diseases, and the nurse's duty in regard to each are next described. The last chapter contains notes of medical diseases, and the appendix contains much valuable information. The book is well illustrated: and the type is excellent. We most heartily congratulate "Isabel Adams Hampton" on the volume, which, ranking as it does as a standard work on nursing, should find a place in every Nurses' library, and upon the bookshelves of every nurse. We hope that in the future she has other books in store for us. A volume from her pen will always be sure of a welcome.

## Plague Nursing in India.

NO. I.—IN A NATIVE STATE.



It was not until March, 1897, that the attention of Government having been successfully drawn to the ravages of the plague in India,

and the inadequacy of the nursing arrangements, that the first batch of six nursing sisters started for Bombay.

We landed in the early days of April, only to find that plague had spent its force as far as that season was concerned and that daily the number of new cases was less, and these not of such a virulent type as at the height of the epidemic.

It was then that it broke out fiercely in Cutch, in its chief seaport town of Mandvi. At the beginning of May an English doctor, four Eurasian nurses, three Ayahs, and a dozen Sepoys were sent up and plague operations commenced. Search parties were organised and the Brahmapoori Dhuranisala or Caravanserai was lent by a wealthy Bowa, and fitted up with the barest necessaries as a plague hospital for Hindus, who have ever been the greatest sufferers from plague, and it was quickly filled.

A few days later one of the two nurses took plague and died, and another nurse resigned. Two others who were private nursing in Cutch, volunteered for the work, and were sent on to Mandvi, but the staff was altogether too small.

After much persuasion the President of the Plague Committee, Bombay, General Gatacre, allowed two of us English Sisters to go, together with two native nurses, a lady doctor, a Parsee doctor, and a Hospital assistant, and after a pleasant sea voyage of two days we landed at Mandvi, and were taken to the Dak or traveller's bungalow. This we used only for meals, all the Sisters and nurses living in large roomy double tents in the compound. The Durbar and the political agent spared no efforts to make us comfortable, and the necessary item food, was good varied, and in sufficient quantity.

With the increase of staff, better nursing arrangements were made, and night nursing was begun. I had charge of the male acute and convalescent wards, and the other Sister was on the women's side. At this time the mortality in Mandvi was one hundred daily. There was but one nurse and myself to my 80 patients, and six orderlies; the hopelessness of doing any real work for the poor sufferers was very depressing. Of nursing, as we understand it in England, there was none. The night-nurse took the morning temperatures, with pulse and respiration of the worst cases, and recorded them in an extemporised chart book.

We began by giving nourishment to the acute cases—milk and "congee"—all water-gruels are congee in India, whether made of sago, tapioca, arrowroot, or anything else.

Next came the medicines which were kept ready made up in large stock bottles, and given three times daily, and were classed in something this way—diaphoretics for those with high temperature, stimulant

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