

papers, forms, charts, etc., needed by the Sister in her work. The other side of the table contains drawers well stocked with bandages, and everything that the students are likely to want for daily use.

The medicine cupboards take up considerable space at the ends of the wards, for there are no medicine brackets over the beds, but the medicine is poured out at the cupboard and carried on a tray to the patient. In every case when a poison is administered, it is measured in the presence of a witness. The cupboards are fixed right into the walls so that no dust can penetrate behind them, and they also have sloping tops, as has everything in which it is possible, which is made under Miss Monk's supervision, so that the places where dust can lodge are reduced to a minimum. Mention must also be made of the test boxes, which again are the design of Miss Monk, and, consequently, are made with sloping lids. "You see," she said, test boxes are always locked at night, or they ought to be, and then the fumes of the acids spoil the wood, so I set to work to think how this evil could be counteracted." This has been done by the removal of a portion of the box at the back about 8 or 10 inches in length and 2 inches in depth. By means of this opening the fumes escape, while it is quite impossible to remove a bottle through it. The stands inside for holding the bottles are removeable, so that the whole of the inside of the box is easily cleaned. The design is so simple and at the same time so satisfactory, that it must commend itself to all practical persons, and should be widely adopted.

With regard to the extension of the hospital, the ground available for building purposes is small, and the possibilities necessarily limited. It is hoped, however, when funds permit, to build a new out-patient department, with all the latest improvements, and with quarters above it for the resident staff. It is also the aim of the Committee to have departments in the hospital for all specialties, including an obstetric department, so that the training for both students and nurses will be very complete.

I take my leave at last of Miss Monk, wondering if the probationers trained at King's realize all the advantages they possess under her wise and kindly rule. As we part on the doorstep, she says:—"You will tell Mrs. Bedford Fenwick how much obliged I am to her for the kind interest she takes in us, won't you? You know I am an old Bart's pro, one of a set of twenty-six, the first certificated there, so I specially appreciate it."

M. B.

## A Talk to Private Nurses.

BY ONE OF THEMSELVES.

(Continued from page 273.)

So then, in spite of all the other influences with which we have to reckon, the patient and sick-room remain our chief consideration. We need scarcely say that the doctor's orders must be implicitly and unquestioningly obeyed, as every trained nurse recognises him as her superior officer in the sick-room, and to him everything bearing on the case must be unhesitatingly reported. Even the best of nurses make mistakes sometimes, and, probably, all can remember little oversights, and misadventures that have occurred, and that we would much rather not mention, yet inexorable duty steps in, and declares candour to be the right course.

To be skilful in carrying out of the treatment, observant of changes, and new developments, ready for any emergency, tactful and unfailingly kind to the most irritable and unreasonable patients, sounds very matter of fact, but will demand all our powers, and often keep us at high tension, little suspected by those around.

For the neatness, cleanliness, and tidiness in ourselves and surroundings we are responsible. Uniform badly put on, or a dusty, untidy room, with furniture and pictures out of place, dressings left about when not needed (if a surgical case), withered flowers, and a general air of slovenliness, all reflect discredit on the nurse and her training school. Yet if it be a question of neatness or comfort, the latter must have the first place. Generally speaking, it is advisable to get rid of all unnecessary furniture from the sick-room, but some show such manifest dislike to any interference with their household gods, that to persist (except in infectious cases) would be unwise; an appeal to the doctor is the best thing. All excretions should at once be removed from the room, the vessels well washed and a little Calvert's carbolic, sanitas, or other disinfectant poured into them.

Flowers cheer and brighten, and there are few people who do not welcome them. But they must be kept fresh, removed from the room every night, and the stems cut, and fresh water put in in the morning before being brought back. They last much longer this way, too, which is often a consideration. Ventilation without draughts sometimes taxes a nurse's ingenuity, and in spite of all effort, a sick room will get stuffy at times. Then a good method is to cover the patient with a light warm shawl and an extra

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)