

ward kitchen, on the left are stores for ward linen, and bedding, and for patients' clothes. These are both fitted with heated aseptic iron shelves, and next to the linen store is a glass-lined food cupboard. The days when milk and beef tea were kept in open cans in the ward, and the only food cupboard was an unventilated one, also in the ward, are now things of the past. The ward proper contains eight beds, which, owing to an arrangement of mirrors, appear to be 16. The floor is of polished oak, and, in accordance with modern hygienic principles, there are no rectangular angles, all junctions taking the form of curves. In the construction of the windows, all ledges are avoided, and, further, by a very simple device, the window-frame revolves, so that the outside can be cleaned while standing in the ward, and all accidents avoided. No pictures are permitted on the walls, as the ledges of the frames would harbour dust, but they are painted a pleasant, cool green, and the general effect is restful. The beds in which are lay figures of patients suffering from various injuries, are shown by different firms, as specimens of hospital beds. All are enamelled white, and have wire mattresses, of either the close mesh, or the wide wires after the Lawson Tait pattern, which appears admirably adapted for hospital use. In one case, the injured leg of a patient was slung in a "Bloxam's modified Salter Cradle." This should be noted and examined, as the modification appears to us a great improvement.

At the entrance to the ward a white glazed table should also be studied. It is formed of volcanic lava, which is the hardest substance known after the diamond. Since it has been in use, it has been made regulation in French Government Hospitals, and all the tables at the Pasteur Institute are made of it. Its great advantage is that it is not liable to crack or break like glass, though a heavy blow might break it. It seems, indeed, almost an ideal material for the purpose, and will, no doubt, prove a serious rival to the plate glass tables now so largely used. The volcanic lava tables are made by the Artistic Tile Co., whose offices are at 95, Wigmore Street, and the show-rooms at 35, Berners Street, W. The same firm have laid down the charming Venetian mosaic flooring in the operating theatre and bath-room, the cost of which is only 7s. 6d. a square yard, and have also supplied the artistic tiles which line the bath-room.

It is noteworthy that the lockers in this ward are made after the pattern of the one which proved most popular at the Nursing Exhibition at St. Martin's Town Hall in 1896. The glass bowls, tipped with different colours for various lotions, designed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and also

shown at this exhibition, are now being made by Messrs. Maw, Son and Thompson, and were in evidence in the ward. This proves the value of exhibitions of Nursing Appliances, when new inventions are seen and adopted by enterprising firms and so placed on the market.

On the centre table of the ward, was noticeable a delightful bag, fitted up by Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome, with every kind of tabloid that a medical practitioner can desire. It also contains a tiny ophthalmic case, while there are separate compartments for instruments and poisons. The whole is most compact and portable.

An excellent couch, on easily moving wheels with india-rubber tyres, is also shown, made by Messrs. Leveson and Sons, 90, New Oxford Street.

#### OPERATING ROOM.

Passing into the main corridor at the further end of the ward, one comes to the operating-room. The walls represent polished marble, this being considered the ideal substance for the purpose, as it is smooth, highly polished, and supposed to be non-absorbent. The ceiling is of Parian cement, and the flooring is laid to fall. A theory in connection with this is that the floor should be kept damp. Then when the doors are closed, as they should be for some hours before an operation, the micro-organisms, affected by gravity, sink to the floor and adhere to the wet surface. The room is heated by radiators, which admit fresh filtered air. All the fittings of this theatre are supplied by Messrs. Maw, Son and Thompson, of Aldersgate Street, E.C. The operating table and those for instruments and sponges, are of glass with metal frames. The former is heated by an electric radiator. A kidney-shaped glass table is an American inspiration of glass and brass, and this and other glass tables are after the pattern of those used in American Hospitals, and introduced into this country by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, after her visit to the United States in 1892, a most useful and convenient shape. Electric sterilizers are provided both for the sterilizing of instruments, and also of dressings. The arrangements for the cleansing of the surgeons' hands are elaborate and complete. A basin, large enough to allow the arms to be completely immersed, is provided, with, of course, above it the usual hot and cold water taps, but, in addition to this, there is fixed over the basin also what is known as a running-stream lavatory, a shower bath in short, under which the arms can be effectively sprayed. The case for instruments, running along one side of the wall, is a framework of brass, filled in with glass, and is a triumph of art and science. It is fitted with glass shelves, and is,

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