A new one goes on duty every tenth day. first prepares and cooks the vegetables, soups, and meats, is responsible for the fire, cleanliness of utensils, sink, and kitchen. At the end of ten days she is promoted to making the breads, sauces, porridge, tea, and coffee, and keeping tidy the pantries. In the last ten days she has an oversight of the whole, writes the orders, takes care of the supplies, and makes the cake and puddings, and helps in teaching her successors. While three probationers are thus employed, others of the class have the care of the chambers, and are taught bed-making, sweeping, dusting, and cleansing of vessels, as such work should be done in a sick room.

By turns two wait at table, care for the china and silver, and keep in order the dining-rooms. Another probationer is responsible for the lamps, nurses' parlour, and office.

The probationers serve one month in each of these branches of housekeeping, and only those who show aptitude for each work are retained in the school.

DRILL IN ASEPSIS.

Following their theoretical instruction in Hygiene and Chemistry, the probationers are drilled in preparing the room, patient, and material for mock surgical and obstetrical operations, where as great care is taken as if life were really at stake. Instruction in Bacteriology is given in lectures and also in the actual work of taking care of the bacteriological laboratory, where constant tests are made of the asepsis attained.

Surgeons' kits of instruments, sent to the school after use, are put in order, cleansed, polished, sterilised, and packed in aseptic cases, ready for instant use. Sutures, ligatures, bandages, and dressings of all kinds are prepared at the school and furnished to surgeons and their patients at cost.

Besides the lectures on chemistry and cooking, there are courses in Anatomy and Physiology, Hygiene and Massage, given during the first half of the probation year. Living models are provided for these lectures and for the lessons in lifting and bathing patients, in changing the clothing and bed, in applying fomentations, poultices, and bandages.

Each day is thus occupied with both didactic and practical instruction. Certain hours are allowed for study, and certain hours for actual work. Two hours for rest and recreation in the open air are insisted upon. From nine till six the probationers must be in bed.

DISTRICT NURSING.

A distinctive feature of the school is the training given in District Visiting Nursing. The probationers are taken out by the Superintendent or her assistants to such work, beginning with the

more simple cases. Several thousand such visits are made during each year. On these nursing visits they are taught how to wash and dress infants, how to care for lying in women, how to make clean and comfortable convalescent patients and helpless chronic invalids who either cannot afford or do not need continuous nursing. After the probationer has satisfied her teachers of her ability to do well the nursing service required at one place she makes the visit by herself on the following days until the patient recovers, or until another probationer is taken there to be taught, and she is transferred to a more difficult case.

It was stated that to some patients this frequent change of nurses is not displeasing, and to others, in consideration of the charity or of the small price charged for this kind of nursing, the disappointment of changing is not so great as the benefit received. The advantages to the student-nurse are considered immeasurable. She becomes accustomed to family nursing; she learns how to utilize scant material, and how to enlist the co-operation of relatives and neighbours by showing those who are willing to learn just how to do for the sufferer.

She learns also how to write serviceable reports of her work and observations for the physician. In short, she has opportunity to show what stuff she is made of. The probationer's success or failure in this district visiting nursing largely de termines the question of her stay in the school: She may pass very creditable examinations in anatomy and physiology, and yet fail in this more important test of her fitness for nursing. In the lecture courses she may learn the elements of the sciences upon which the profession of nursing depends, but in district work she has opportunity to learn from her teachers the Art of nursing. Again in their Senior year each student has a month's service in District Visiting Nursing.

During the second half of the probationary year the nurses serve in the Hospital, or are kept on call (private or district nursing) work. They all meet at the school in the afternoons for lectures on Surgical, Medical, and Obstetrical Nursing, and for recitations on Nursing Text-books

JUNIOR YEAR: FIRST HALF.

Following their first term of six months in the Hospital the now Junior nurses are assigned to nursing service in the private practice of their physician-instructors, but are still required to attend, the daily lectures in the school. During the second half of the Junior year they are given further service in the general and also in the contagious wards of the Hospital.

OBSTETRIC NURSING.

The call work of the advanced probationers and junior nurses is mostly for obstetrical cases. The nurse who is waiting for a case is called, either previous page next page