

The system has its manifest disadvantages, and when an Orderly goes off duty, as in one instance related, without informing the ward master that his relief has not appeared, and the ward is left unattended for an hour or so, the result may be serious. "Of course," says the writer, "this kind of thing did not often happen, and when one takes into consideration that at this time the majority of the Orderlies were only privates fresh from Barracks, on the whole they managed very well." Imagine a ward in a civilian hospital left for the night in charge of "privates fresh from barracks," which contained as this one did, a delirious sergeant with valvular disease of the heart and dropsy, and eleven cases of pneumonia in various stages, the only patients who were able to be up in the daytime being a convalescent heart case, and a chronic rheumatism. Surely the Army Sister must have anxious nights and disturbed dreams. Of the routine in the daytime we read, "The patients are supposed to be washed and the beds made before the Sisters appear in the wards, so that they can serve the medicines, and take the necessary temperatures, in which last the Sister uses her own discretion. By 10 p.m. the Orderly of the ward is supposed to be ready with his coat on, and pen and ink in hand, to meet the Medical Officer. I say "supposed," because my experience was more often to the contrary. I have known what it is to find a ward in a perfect state of chaos at 9.30 a.m., patients only partially washed, beds unmade, and the floor strewn with soiled linen, and in the midst of all, an energetic Orderly raising clouds of dust in his vain efforts to sweep the ward. The Orderlies show such a want of method in their work, and often waste time in wondering what to do next. By dint of hard work on one's own part, the ward would be reduced to some sort of order before the arrival of the Medical Officer, who, fortunately, was occasionally late owing to duties elsewhere."

Patients, on arriving at the Infirmary, are seen by the Colonel-in-Charge, and assigned to their respective wards. They are not put on hospital diet until the following day, and are therefore still on Barrack rations, which they either bring with them or arrange to have sent in by a comrade. Any patient unable to take solid food can have two pints of milk drawn from the stores for him. This must be entered on his diet sheet on the following day, otherwise the orderly of the ward would have to pay for it.

"On the whole," we read, "the work in a Military Hospital is both interesting and varied, and is not so easy as one would imagine. In addition to the Medical, there are a good many Surgical cases, both major and minor. Among the Cavalry, accidents in the Riding School are almost a daily occurrence—fractures, dislocations, and kicks from vicious steeds. Shortly before leaving the Infirmary the wounded were beginning to arrive, but not in great numbers owing to the lack of accommodation. To my mind the men suffering from the effects of dysentery and enteric, many of them perfect wrecks, excited one's pity more than those bearing the marks of bullet wounds." It will thus be seen that these papers are full of interest, not only to the members of the smaller circle of the Debating Society of St. John's House, but to the profession at large. We hope in a future issue to comment on some of the other papers which cover a wide range of subjects.

Preparations, Inventions, etc.

OSWEGO CORNFLOUR.

Of the many cornflours now on the market, none Corn, which, established in 1848, is the original of all the cornflours, and, notwithstanding the keen competition from the many admirable preparations now obtainable, has maintained its position in the front rank. Cornflour is now indispensable in every household, and many are the dainty dishes which can be prepared with it. A cake made of Oswego cornflour is excellent, and is wholesome for, and keenly appreciated by, children. The ingredients are butter, castor sugar, eggs, Oswego Cornflour, and baking powder. For invalids it may be prepared in the same way as arrowroot, and delicate blancmanges, and boiled puddings may also be prepared with it, and make a pleasant and welcome change in invalid dietary. We strongly recommend all housewives and hospitals to keep a supply of Oswego Cornflour on their store-room shelves. It will be found convenient, wholesome, delicious, and economical in use, while its purity and delicacy are unquestionable.

WYNBURG REGATTA.

Our notice has been directed to a charming material named Wynburg Regatta, which is supplied by Mr. C. Williamson, of 91, Edgware Road. With the exception of piqué, which is very close, and therefore somewhat hot for summer wear; it is difficult to obtain a material of sufficient substance to be satisfactory for washing coats and skirts, which soon hang limp and get out of shape if they are made of flimsy material. Wynburg Regatta is just the thing for those who are thinking of replenishing their wardrobes in this direction. It is very strong, the dye is fast, and it is made in four shades of colour, grey, strawberry, and a light and "butcher" blue, all of which would be charming for seaside wear. Any one in a well cut coat and skirt of Wynburg Regatta, would be both well turned out, and cool and comfortable—two great desiderata. It might also be usefully used for nurses' uniform dresses. It is 30 inches wide, and 8¾d. per yard, so that it is within the reach of modest purses.

The Case against Hospital Nurses.

An article has appeared in the current issue of the *Nineteenth Century*, which criticises in some detail the nursing profession, under the title of "The Case against Hospital Nurses." It is a serious indictment, and we shall carefully review it at length next week.

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