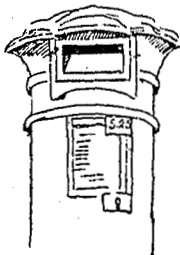


Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES. &c.



Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

LINEN FOR A TEMPORARY SMALL-POX HOSPITAL OF SIX BEDS.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

January 14th, 1902

DEAR EDITOR,—I think many of us situated in these lonely spots would be very glad of some valuable advice which I feel sure you can give us through the RECORD. Throughout the country where there are no Fever Hospitals, temporary ones are being erected, or cottages fixed up in which to isolate small-pox cases. These of course need fitting up, and as most of them would be done in a great hurry, possibly many useful items would be overlooked. I, for one, would be greatly helped if you could give us the opinion of a Matron who has had experience in this work.

For instance, supposing one of us is asked to fit out a cottage with linen to accommodate six patients, what precious time would be saved by having such a list to refer to, and not to have to puzzle out the question as to how much to allow per bed etc.

Personally, I am a great lover of clean linen, and never mind the time spent in looking after it.

When, however, one is asked to spend public money, one would like to be as careful as possible, though at the same time allowing enough.

Trusting I am not too late for this week's RECORD,

I am, yours truly,

SISTER-IN-CHARGE.

[The smallest amount of ward linen required to keep the stock of a hospital of six beds in efficient condition, that is, a week's supply in use, at wash, and in stock would be—*For use of Patients.*—18 pairs of sheets, 18 pairs of drawsheets, 36 pillow cases, 12 mattress covers, 12 under blankets, 18 blankets, 12 quilts, 6 dressing gowns, 18 night shirts, 18 night gowns, 18 flannel jackets, 6 table cloths, 24 tray cloths, 36 towels, 18 bath towels, 4 bath blankets, 3 operation gowns, 6 operation socks, 4 operation blankets, 12 operation pillow cases, 12 operation sheets. *For use of Medical Man.*—36 towels, 36 operation towels, 12 tongue towels. *For use of Nurses.*—24 dusters, 18 tea cloths, 18 glass cloths, 18 basin cloths, 18 lavatory cloths, 12 knife cloths, 6 oven cloths, 12 roller cloths, 18 rubbers. *For use of Household (Doctor (1), Matron (1), Nurses (2), Servant (2).)*—18 pairs of sheets, 24 pillow-cases, 18 bath towels, 24 towels, 12 toilet towels, 9 under blankets, 18 blankets, 9 quilts, 9 mattress covers, 12 table cloths, 18 table napkins, 24 dusters, 18 tea cloths, 18 glass cloths, 18 basin cloths, 12 knife cloths, 6 oven cloths, 6 roller towels, 18 rubbers. In addition in an Infectious Hospital every article of underclothing for personal wear, and suits of clothes, would have to be provided for convalescent patients.—Ed].

VISITORS TO SMALL-POX PATIENTS.

Gore Farm Hospital,
Dartford,

January 27th, 1902.

To the Editor of the "Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I have much pleasure in enclosing particulars you asked for with regard to precautions taken as to visitors to small-pox patients.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

FREDERIC THOMSON.

Report of the Medical Superintendent, Gore Farm Hospital.

As regards the visiting of small-pox patients by their friends, I may say first of all, that visiting is absolutely prohibited except to the friends of patients dangerously ill.

If, on this account relations are requested to visit, they are first of all sent to the Doctor's office, where they are vaccinated by him, unless they can satisfy him that they are efficiently protected by recent re-vaccination. Should they refuse vaccination, they are required to sign a book to this effect, and their names and addresses are sent to the Medical Officer of Health for the district in which they reside.

They then go to the Matron's office, and are completely enveloped in a large brown holland cloak. This, in the case of women has a hood to completely enclose the hair, while the men have a cap of the same material.

On going to the ward they are not allowed to touch the patients in bed, but sit a little distance away. The visit is limited to fifteen minutes. On returning from the ward they wash their hands and faces with a disinfectant soap, and then resume their outdoor garments. The cloaks are at once disinfected, and washed before being used for another visitor.

I enclose a copy of the notice which is sent to friends of patients dangerously ill.

FREDERIC THOMSON,

Medical Superintendent.

Extract from the Rules of the Metropolitan Asylums Board as to the Visiting of Patients.

13.—The visiting of patients is limited to the nearest relatives or intimate friends of patients dangerously ill. Two visitors only will be allowed daily to each patient. Visits are, as a rule, to be limited in duration to a quarter of an hour. In urgent and special cases, however, the Medical Superintendent is empowered to increase the number of visitors to two, and to extend the duration of the visit.

14.—Visitors are warned that they run great risk in entering the Hospitals. If it be a Smallpox Hospital, they are advised not to go into the wards without having been properly re-vaccinated, and, if they reside where the case visited occurred, are earnestly requested to urge the remainder of the occupiers of such house to call at once on the Public Vaccinator (whose address can be obtained from any of the Parish Officers) for the purpose of being vaccinated.

15.—Visitors are further advised to partake of a good meal before entering the Hospitals, and not to enter the Wards when in a weak state of health or in an exhausted condition. They will be required when in the Wards to carefully avoid touching the patient, or exposing themselves to his breath or to the emana-

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