

decorations—seascapes, landscapes, festoons of oranges, all were there to make the wards bright, and to lead thoughts away from pain and suffering to other and brighter things.

All the large wards have smaller ones attached to them of one, two, and three beds. This seemed to me a very wise and sensible arrangement, for then it is possible for the seriously ill or dying to be quiet and away from the curious eyes and chatter of the patients who are convalescent.

The wards are very sparsely furnished, much thought evidently being taken to give as few resting-places as possible to the wily microbe. The beds seemed to be of excellent design; high, to relieve the strain for the attendants; and the patients assured us they were most comfortable. There was the usual framework, but the springs appeared to be wide pieces of metal, slightly bowed, upon which the mattress rested, these being well above the frame, so that all dust might be quite easily removed without disturbing the patient. There were the usual fixed ward tables with cupboards, but there were no plants, flowers, or decoration of any description beyond the painted walls, but what was lacking in prettiness was made up in light and air.

We saw here an excellent stretcher ambulance, which could be quite easily moved by one person, and of the lightest possible weight combined with strength. It was in use, for, being the morning, operations were in full swing, one having just been finished, and as we passed out of the ward we saw the theatre just as the patient left it. From a casual glance, it, as well as all the other operating theatres we saw, were equipped with all the latest arrangements for sterilising clothes and instruments, and having washing basins with pedal action, &c.

Then we were shown the out-patient department with its little operating room, with a small ward of three beds attached; then the electrical department, where treatment by electricity is carried out. After leaving the new building, we entered what appeared to be a shed, which once might have done duty for a coach-house, but now, being the only place available, was used as the out-patient department for skin diseases. We passed through the outer room and into the Finsen-light room, where we saw a case of lupus being treated. The infirmière said, "It was rather weary work, for to get any good result it was necessary for the patient to be under treatment for an hour at a time." I asked if they had treated any cancer cases, and was told "Yes; with good results; but they were not cases of deeply-seated disease, but of the skin only." "Were the results permanent?" was my next question. That they could not say, as the installation had only been in use for about a year, and, of course, that was not long enough to decide.

"You have seen the best of the place," said the

Director; "now I will show you the worst." Forthwith we were carried back into the conditions of, I should think, fifty years ago. Long, low wards, with huge beams supporting the ceiling, badly lighted and ventilated, both by day and night; the windows were small and near the ceiling, and the lights used at night were hanging glasses containing oil and a floating wick, supplemented by a lamp ordered by the Director.

The lavatory and douching accommodation was of the most primitive description, but kept as clean as such horrid places could be kept. These wards contained about forty beds each, and were used for medical cases. I asked how many infirmières they had to look after all these patients? Two for day and one by night. "Then the patients help?" "Oh! yes, when they are well enough, as they have nothing else to do." Think of it! a medical ward of forty beds and two people only to care for the patients! How this is done we had an example, for whilst we were in one of the wards the patients' lunch was given them; I can't say it was served, for I have seen some pet dogs better looked after. The bread was placed on the foot of each bed, then the superintendent came round with the food on plates, on a wheel table; each plate was placed on the foot of the bed of the patient for whom it was intended. Some had a knife and no fork, others a fork and no knife, and the fingers and teeth did duty for the missing implement. And what nursing is done seems to be upon the same rough and ready method.

We were rather astonished to notice that all convalescent patients wore a uniform of blue and white striped cotton material, made with a short full skirt and loose jacket; also, everyone wore a cap resembling much the nightcap of our grandmothers. The position occupied by the Director came out very strongly here, for, on our entering, every patient who was up immediately went and stood by her bedside. An untidy girl with an open jacket was called to order, comment was made upon a patient not up, and also upon an unmade bed.

Then we were shown the quarters of the staff. No sitting-room for *them*, although there is a beautiful one for convalescent surgical patients. Their bedrooms small and beds crowded together, and only their small boxes to keep things in, and very little room for those. What we should have seen, had we dared to look under the beds, I scarcely like to imagine. The dining-room, too, was more like a room in a very poor restaurant: sanded stone floor, small tables covered with American cloth, plates, knives, forks, &c., placed anyhow on them, men and women dining together, but at separate tables. The surveillants also had a separate table, but the same accommodation.

We discussed at length the difference between the conditions of nurses in England and France.

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