

The Director said: "Here it is against rules to receive tips, but you know they all do, and what can one do to prevent it? I have heard that in your country if such a thing is offered to a nurse she is offended—nay, insulted." I said, "It is necessary to have women of a better class, who would have higher ideals." "Yes," he answered; "but how to get such women to work under such conditions as exist here. Could one expect a woman well brought up to sleep and eat in such rooms?" "It was done in England years ago; we, too, have had to pass through this stage, and we are still striving after better things." "Yes," he said, "we are experimenting, and cannot yet tell if the experiment is going to succeed." He then proceeded to explain to me the nature of this experiment. It was the giving of lectures, and the subsequent examination. "How is this carried out?" I queried, feeling that now I was surely on the track of that elusive diploma of which I had heard. This is the answer I received: Young women are received into the big infirmaries, and then (some of them) attend lectures in anatomy, physiology, and chemistry. At the end of the year they are examined by (as I understood it) the doctors who give the instruction, and if they pass they are called diplomée, and passed on to the other hospitals. They are then placed where they are needed, and left. No agreement is made between the authorities and the infirmière; there is no fear of losing a certificate, and if she offends the only punishment is the childish one of stopping leave, or sending her to another hospital where conditions are not quite so good, or, rather, are a little worse. "What are the hours here?" I asked. "From 6 a.m. to 6 or 8 p.m., and at night 8 p.m. to 10 a.m."

"Then the night staff assists in preparing the wards?" I queried. "Yes, all the work of the wards is done by the infirmières," the Director answered.

So our visit ended with mutual good wishes—on his side to see our hospitals, and for improvement in his own—wishes that I cordially echoed, for it was indeed good to find at least one person who realised so fully the lack of proper nursing, and who seemed so anxious to know how things might be improved.

MARY BURR.

To Preserve Needles.

Keep them in a saturated solution of washing soda. Carbolic oils and watery solutions dull all cutting instruments, and in alcohol they will soon rust. Albolene has an unpleasant oiliness, but is otherwise good. Calcium chloride in absolute alcohol is efficacious but expensive. We believe many nurses will be glad to know of this simple method, as it is not easy to keep needles in satisfactory condition.

The Hospital World.

THE LADY FORESTER TRUST.

Early this month the Memorial Hospital, Much Wenlock, was informally opened by a visit from the local and Shrewsbury doctors, who thoroughly inspected it.

The hospital was decorated with most lovely flowers, kindly sent from Covent Garden by E. B. P'Anson, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., the architect. It is beautifully situated under a larch wood, and stands in its own grounds. It contains thirteen beds and two cots—that is, two wards of five beds each, and four single wards and an isolation ward, all fitted with every modern convenience. The furnishing of the theatre is not quite complete; it is being carried out by Messrs. Arnold and Sons, West Smithfield, and will be up-to-date in every respect. The Röntgen rays apparatus has also been supplied. There is a separate building containing lodge, laundry, ambulance room, disinfecting chamber and mortuary.

In connection with the hospital there is to be a Home for District Nurses, who will work in the villages in the borough, which is one of the largest in England.

Mary Anne Lady Forester was the only surviving daughter of Edward Jervis, second Viscount St. Vincent, and widow of George Cecil Weld, third Lord Forester.

By her will she left £400,000 in the hands of trustees to provide a Cottage Hospital at Wenlock, and a Convalescent Home at the seaside in connection with it, in memory of her husband, General Lord Forester, who represented Wenlock in Parliament from 1828 to 1874, at the latter date (when he succeeded his brother in the Peerage) he was Father of the House of Commons.

The present trustees are Lord Forester and T. H. Thursfield, Esq. (the only two original ones), Lord Wenlock, and Col. the Hon. F. C. Bridgeman.

The work at the Convalescent Home, Llandudno, is progressing favourably; it will contain 50 beds.

If, as has been suggested, St. George's Hospital should be removed from its present site, this will not be for the first time in its history. It was, in fact, originally an offshoot of the Westminster Infirmary, which was founded in 1719, and was the first hospital in London supported entirely by voluntary contributions. When the Westminster site was found too small for it a dispute arose among the guardians, which resulted in the removal to Lanesborough House, at Hyde Park Corner, in 1733, of the minority, who founded there the present St. George's. The house was particularly appropriate to the shelter of the sick, if we are to believe the description of Lord Lanesborough in a current rhyme of the time, of which one line ran, "Sober Lanesbro', dancing with the gout." The building as it now stands was erected on the site of the old house, in 1834, by William Wilkins, R.A., the architect of the National Gallery.

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