

## The American Nursing World.

The new Memorial Hospital, at Richmond, Virginia, of which Miss Agnes S. Brennan, whose work at Bellevue Hospital, New York, is well known, is the Superintendent, has been opened for the reception of patients, and is described as unquestionably the most complete hospital establishment in the South. The Assistant Superintendent is Miss Prial, and the Dietician Miss Frances Saunders. An interesting feature in its organisation is that the hospital offers a post-graduate course of six months, which includes a very thorough course in dietetics. A certificate is given at the close of the course to those who pass satisfactorily through it. A dietetic course only, lasting for six weeks, can be taken if desired.

Miss Emma J. Hiestler, in a letter to a contemporary, reports some experiences of nursing on the prairie. She was called to take charge of a scarlet fever case in a small town not far from Topeka, Kansas, and says:—"When I arrived at the station I was informed that the home of the patient was seven miles out on the prairies, and that, instead of having one patient, there were three—father and two daughters. My first duty upon arriving there was to make the patients comfortable, they being dressed and in bed. The daughters were delirious, and did not sleep much the first night. The second evening the son succumbed to the disease, and the following week the mother had an attack of quinsy and nervous prostration. I had no aid except an aged lady (who did the cooking). The doctor sent to the city for a professional nurse, and they sent us a coloured woman, supposed to be a nurse, but who was of no account whatever in the sick-room. There were no keys to the house, and at night the prairie wolves would come howling around the house, and all the milk and water used was kept out of doors and had to be brought in at all hours of the night."

It is satisfactory to record that the nurse left all the patients convalescent, although one of them at one time had a temperature of nearly 107°, and was delirious most of the time, and at times in a stupor from which she could hardly be roused. When desquamation took place the skin from the left elbow to the finger tips came off like a glove.

The Examining Board for nurses of the State of Virginia has now been appointed by the Governor. The examiners are Miss Cabaniss, of Richmond, for five years; Miss Minor, of Richmond, for four years; Miss Watkins, of Richmond, for three years; Miss Delancey, of Norfolk, for two years; Miss Glasgow, of Roanoke, for one year. All nurses graduating in Virginia after January 1st, 1904, will be required to satisfy this Board as to their qualifications before being allowed to register.

## Nursing Echoes.

*\*\*\* All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



A contemporary, writing on the question of food in nursing homes, says:—"The usefulness of nursing homes is admitted, and from a medical and nursing point of view they are all that can be desired, but is it not too hastily assumed in some of the more private of the homes that the patients have lost their appetite? There are grievous complaints that in some homes the supply of food is scanty and of inferior quality and badly cooked. There are even complaints that when friends take in food to patients, as they are almost compelled to do, the nurses are so much neglected in the matter of diet that the special supplies for patients speedily disappear. Patients are unwilling to complain, and doctors are left in ignorance of the truth. And so the objectionable system is continued. Patients who have passed through one of these badly-conducted places prefer their own homes if special medical treatment again becomes necessary. Medical men work at a disadvantage in such places, and they ought to make regular inquiries about the quantity and quality of food given to their patients."

This is a serious charge to bring against nurses, and it is to be regretted that the journal which printed it did not name the institutions in which it is alleged that "the nurses are so much neglected in the matter of diet" that the patients' food "disappears." Whatever may be the failings of the modern nurse, neglect of her patients is not one of them, and, until we are furnished with proof to the contrary, we must decline to believe that any nurses would descend to such a practice. It will probably be found that the transgressors are not nurses at all.

At a recent meeting of the Portsmouth Guardians, Mr. Timpson called attention to the purchase of provisions for the nurses in the Infirmary, and he asked upon what principle the tradesmen were selected? Mr. Davis, the Chairman of the Infirmary Committee, explained that in the purchase of food for the nurses it was left to the Matron of the Infirmary to select the food, and purchase it where she pleased, in order that there might be an agreeable variation in the food; but this was only on condition that the cost of this

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