

pital. The operating nurse attached to the hospital, of course, does for such a patient precisely as for one admitted under the care of the nurses of the institution, and, under the operating nurse, the one told off by the Matron or brought by the patient is next in charge. She assists at the operation and takes the case from the time she prepares the patient until well enough to be off her hands. A lounge in the patient's room, screened off, and a small table for meals, where for the first thirty-six hours she has her food, are provided in every instance. As soon as the patient has sufficiently recovered from the effects of the anæsthetic and operation, a relieving trained nurse is sent to relieve for two or three hours daily. When the patient leaves the institution the nurse (if one of the staff) gets two or sometimes three days off duty.

On each flat a Sister is in charge, and she, with a head assistant, a junior and a probationer nurse, attends to the wants of the private rooms. Each morning the Sister goes the rounds and takes the orders for the patients' and the nurses' meals, just as one would do in a restaurant. The nurse in charge of each patient has obtained the doctor's permission for certain articles of diet; and should a wish be expressed for other permissible things, these orders also are taken by the Sister. The meals are sent to each room, on separate trays, on hot-water dishes and plates, the patient's tray being distinguished by a piece of paper bearing the number of the room, and the nurse's by the letter N added to the number. All peptonised and pre-digested foods are made by the head nurse, and also the nutrient enemata, &c. A small table stands outside each door, and on this the nurse places all used articles and dishes, which are collected by a junior nurse and piled on trays and placed near the elevator shaft, where they are collected by the lift boy, who is relieved of them by a boy from the kitchen. All orders from the doctor are written on slips of paper, signed by him and the nurse. A bell is rung and the order taken by the probationer to the head nurse, who prepares the order, and placing it on a tray sends it to the room. Medicines ordered for regular hours are kept in the room; but sedatives, applications, hypodermics, &c., are all sent to the room by the head nurse as ordered, and she, with the aid of the assistant, cleans, sterilises, and puts away the utensil after use. The rooms where dressings are prepared are in charge of a nurse, who also does operating-room work.

The lighting is excellent. Each electric fitting has attached to it a drop light, which is used at night for catheterising, dressing, or anything needing more than the light supplied for lighting the room. In this hospital a great many male nurses are employed. They do good work, and are equally trained with the female nurses. The method of packing for reducing temperature in fevers, &c., is an excellent one. A mackintosh sheet and blanket

are placed on the bed, two nurses pack, the packing being done with towels, large and small; a hot-water tin is put to the feet, ice to the head, and over the patient is placed a large cradle, which need not be moved, its partitions being large enough to allow of towels being removed. A large towel is wrung out and rolled from each end to the centre, each nurse places one hand under the patient's shoulder, and the towel is drawn up under the shoulders and round the neck and down under the buttocks; another of the same size is placed over the top of the body, one large one round each leg, and smaller ones round the arms. A small one is also rolled up and put into each axilla and groin. The patient is given iced drinks all the time. The iced water for the head runs through tubes, the warm water running away through a tap and the cold running all the time from an iced fountain or vessel at the head of the bed. The temperature is taken a few minutes after the packing is completed, and, if there is no sign of a fall, one of the upper towels and those in the groins and axillæ are renewed. I must not forget to say that over the cradle are blankets, and sometimes a very light one is placed on top of the towels. The pack we are accustomed to becomes warm and steamy very soon, whereas this method seems to prevent that state, and the patients, as a rule, enjoy it instead of resenting their imprisonment in large sheets. I noticed that the temperature is reduced more gradually and surely, and, on account of the patient being disturbed less, it in many instances remains down longer, and the patient is less distressed. On account of male nurses being employed, very few male patients are nursed privately by female nurses. During my eighteen months in America I nursed only one adult male patient. At some future date I shall endeavour to give a description of the Women's and Children's Hospital, on California and Maple Streets, San Francisco. L. R.

### The Humanitarian League.

The Humanitarian League has just published its Annual Report. In the Criminal Law and Prisons Department the question of corporal punishment has been prominent, and effective protests have been made against a number of illegal and "extra-judicial" sentences, while the flogging of young men which still goes on in the Royal Navy has been closely watched. That the League's protests against this practice are not without avail is shown by the fact that, while the juvenile element in the Navy has increased, the number of floggings inflicted with the birch have decreased. Other departments of the League have been actively engaged in combatting spurious sports, hare-hunting at Eton College, the cruelties of the Irish cattle trade, the private slaughter-house system, the fur and feather fashion, &c. Satisfaction is expressed at the reforms lately adopted at the Zoological Gardens, especially in the discontinuance of feeding the larger serpents on living prey.

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