

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Miss Florence M. Swain has been appointed Matron of the new country branch Hospital at Northwood of the Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest. She was trained at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and at the General Hospital, Bristol, and has held the positions of Staff Nurse at the City of London Chest Hospital, Victoria Park, E., Sister at the East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich, and Sister at the Mount Vernon Hospital, Hampstead. Miss Swain holds the certificate of the City of London Lying-in Hospital.

Miss Agnes Elizabeth Taylor has been appointed Matron of the Reigate and Redhill Cottage Hospital. She was trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, in which institution she has held various responsible positions.

Miss Katherine Elphick has been appointed Matron of the new Convalescent Home of seventy-five beds at Llandudno belonging to the Lady Forester Trust. She was trained and certificated at King's College Hospital, and has held appointments as Sister at the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, and the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and as Matron at the North London Hospital for Consumption, Hampstead, and at the General Infirmary, Hereford.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Miss L. Dryden has been appointed Assistant Matron of the Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol. She was trained at St. George's Hospital, London, and the Children's Hospital, Bristol, and has held the position of Night Sister at the Infirmary and Dispensary, Bolton.

SISTERS.

Miss Margaret Birkett has been appointed Sister at the Fulham Infirmary, Hammersmith. She was trained at the Union Infirmary, Middlesbrough, and has held the position of Sister at the Selly Oak Infirmary, near Birmingham.

Miss Alice King has been appointed Sister at the Isolation Hospital, Wimbledon. She was trained at the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth, and has held the position of Sister at the Hull Sanatorium, Charge Nurse at the Brook Hospital, and Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Tenbury. She has also had experience in district nursing.

A Vacant Appointment.

Our readers will find in our advertisement columns a notice of the vacancy at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, of the position of Matron and Superintendent of Nursing. The position is one of great importance, the training-school attached to the hospital being the largest in Australasia, so that the interest of the appointment to anyone interested in nursing education is great.

How to Care for a Premature Baby.

By MARY A. JONES,

Superintendent of Nurses, Infants' Hospital, Boston, Mass.

This is easily told: Keep him warm, dry, quiet, and away from draughts and bright light, feed frequently and regularly with suitable food, give him plenty of warm, fresh air, and do not handle him; but to do this requires the services of two good trained nurses.

As the infant is exceedingly sensitive to touch and loses heat rapidly, he should be handled as little and as gently as possible, while everything used about the baby should be thoroughly warmed, as influences which have no effect on an infant born at term may be fatal to one of premature birth.

The baby should be bathed in warm sweet oil, the cord dressed with sterile absorbent cotton held in place by a loose flannel band, a napkin put on of absorbent cotton or pieces of old birdseye linen, and the child wrapped in absorbent cotton. This is more easily and economically done by using a double thickness of absorbent gauze interlined with a thick layer of the cotton, the whole quilted loosely to hold the cotton in place; a hood of the same material may be cut or sewn on the garment. This leaves only the face exposed; the garment may be fastened with tapes or safety pins. It can be easily changed for a fresh one, and may be washed several times before it becomes hard and unfit for use.

It is not advisable to dress the infant, not only because it necessitates more handling and exposure, but also because the baby is kept warmer, cleaner, and the skin in better condition by the use of the cotton.

Without question the best receptacle for a premature baby is an incubator. There are many different makes; any one is good, provided it can be kept at an even temperature, has a good supply of warm fresh air, and can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected; for the last reason one made of metal is to be preferred to those of wood. As these cannot always be obtained, one must be able to improvise a substitute, whether it be a basket, crib, or box; it must be lined throughout, have a soft mattress, and kept warm with hot-water bottles; this should be so placed that it may be entirely screened from draughts, while the room should be well ventilated and kept at a temperature of 75° or 80° F.

When we have several premature babies, or when one is taken from the incubator, we take one of the iron cribs in the wards, line it throughout with several thicknesses of table felting covered with sheets, using the same material folded for the mattress.

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