

attendance on cases not under Poor Law jurisdiction, which it was recently asserted has been undertaken by the Superintendent Nurse of the Banbridge Infirmary.

Jane Toppan, who is well known to the nursing world as a woman who, while private nursing, poisoned a succession of patients in the United States, and was finally adjudged insane and confined in an asylum, is now haunted by the fear that she herself is being poisoned and refuses all food. She is described by a contemporary as a "trained nurse," but this is scarcely just to the nursing profession, because, as an American correspondent recently pointed out in these columns, she was dismissed from a large hospital after her probationary term for unsuitable temperament and unreliability, and was subsequently taken up by physicians. The fact that many probationers judged unsuitable and dismissed from training-schools after a short period are making a living as private nurses is one of the strongest arguments in favour of a system of Registration, both in the interests of the public and in justice to nurses themselves. Medical practitioners would at once repudiate responsibility as a profession for the subsequent actions of a medical student whose career had been summarily cut short; but every woman who has spent a few months in a hospital is supposed to be a trained nurse, and consequently her conduct when unworthy brings discredit on the whole profession of nursing, a condition of things which must continue until a State Register of Trained Nurses records the names of those who have passed through their full course with credit, and have satisfied an independent examining board as to the soundness of their nursing knowledge.

At the Albany Hospital, U.S.A., a department was, two years ago, established for the treatment of mental disease. The experiment proved so satisfactory that the department has now been enlarged, and the pavilion set aside for this purpose contains thirty-three beds. Not only to patients who are perhaps "on the border line," and who require treatment but should not be classed as insane, is the department valuable. All the nursing pupils are required to spend several weeks in this pavilion before their graduation, and the opportunity thus afforded them of insight into this branch of their work is one which should be highly prized. In addition to practical work in the wards, the pupils also attend lectures on the care of these patients.

The American nurse, says Miss M. Eugenie Hibbard, in her work in Cuba has scored a success. She has overcome many obstacles and removed the prejudice of a people who have long been held in the leash of religious sentiment, social usage, and conventionality. She has shown that dignity can be maintained in nursing the sick, that cleanliness is an absolute necessity, and implicit obedience to authority imperative,

The Hospital World.

THE NEW HOSPITAL, CHARLOTTENBURG.

"I'm so sorry I cannot come, as I have not yet finished my report." So ran a postcard sent by Fraulein Karll.

A small party of us had arranged to pay a visit to just another hospital before leaving Berlin, and Fraulein Karll, with her ever-ready kindness, had promised to accompany us.

Disappointed, but nevertheless determined to see what we could, we started off for the nearest hospital, that of Charlottenburg.

After many references to the map we at last found ourselves inside the Director's room, only to be told that the hospital proper was elsewhere, and that this building was only a sort of receiving house. However, the Director most kindly helped us in giving us explicit directions how to get to it, and off we started again, to be once more delayed by a heavy shower. That over, another effort was made, and eventually we found ourselves entering a most palatial building, well situated on a hill overlooking the surrounding country for miles.

As is customary, we were sent to Herr Director before we could receive permission to see the building, and, as he was busy in the operating room, we had to wait some time before he was at liberty to attend to us. When he arrived and heard our request he went in search of the Head Sister and handed us over to her care.

In the meantime, we tried to occupy our time by investigating the nearest ward, which, like much of the hospital, was not yet quite ready for occupation. As all the wards are equipped in the same manner, a description here will suffice. The doors were half glass; beds white-painted metal, with wood panels at head and foot, good hair mattress and wedge pillow, under-sheet, and the top blanket put into the large case, which keeps it clean and also forms the top sheet. The bedside tables were also of metal painted white, the lower part being arranged to form a cupboard, although none of the sides were made to fit, so allowing for ventilation, which was to a certain extent an advantage, for as apparently the custom of keeping all urine in glass utensils by the patient's bed is to be retained, this ventilated cupboard is as good (or rather bad) a place as any.

We noticed the screens, made with heavy iron frames and curtained, were quite impossible to lift and carry, except with much unnecessary effort, as they were not upon runners; one can well suppose that under these conditions screens will not be very extensively employed. The wards are long and contain sixteen beds, with smaller wards or rooms for special cases. The ceilings are arched—for lessening the dust surface, we were told; but is that really so? We were much struck by the large number of electric wires, not only

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