

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Miss M. H. Christie has been appointed Matron of the City Hospital, Park Hill, Liverpool. She was trained at Toxteth Infirmary, Liverpool, and has held the positions of Charge Nurse and Night Superintendent at Prescott Infirmary, and of Assistant Matron at the City Hospital, Liverpool.

Miss Mary G. Currie has been appointed Matron of the Isolation Hospital, Crewe. She was trained at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and at the Fever Hospital, Belvidere. She has held the position of Matron of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Airdrie, and of Assistant Matron of the Gartloch Hospital for Mental Diseases.

SISTERS.

Miss Annie Proctor has been appointed Surgical Sister at the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary. She was trained at Ancoats Hospital, Manchester, where she has acted as Theatre Sister and also as Ward Sister.

Miss Edith Bradley has been appointed Sister at St. Giles' Infirmary, Camberwell. She was trained at St. Saviour's Infirmary, Dulwich, and for two years has done private nursing in connection with the Brooklyn Institute, Anerley Road, S.E.

NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss C. Richardson has been appointed Night Superintendent at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, where she subsequently held the position of Sister. She has also held the same position at the Cumberland Infirmary.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

Miss Martha Louisa Taylor has been appointed Superintendent Nurse at the Workhouse Infirmary, Alton, Hants, not at the Bristol Workhouse Infirmary. She received her training in the latter institution.

NURSE.

Miss Esther E. Clements has been appointed Nurse in connection with the London County Council Schools. She was trained at the Mile End Infirmary, and has held the position of Sister at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, Charge Nurse at the Brook Hospital, Shooter's Hill, and Sister at the Shoreditch Infirmary. She holds the certificate of the London Obstetrical Society.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE.

The undermentioned ladies have been provisionally appointed Staff Nurses in the above Service: Miss Margaret Scott Ram, Miss Margaret Finlayson Steele, Miss Edith Foster.

Sister Miss A. R. Rose-Innes has resigned her appointment.

A Lesson in Bacteriology for Probationers.

By FRANCES B. STANDEN.

You who have just entered the training-school are no doubt much mystified by hearing on every hand allusions to the unseen forms of life designated as micro-organisms, microbes, bacteria, germs, and so forth, and it will be necessary for you to remember that these are all synonymous terms and by these are meant the myriads of tiny living organisms with which we are surrounded in the animal and vegetable kingdoms.

At present we are more immediately interested in those that enter the human body and as a result of their action bring forth disease; but we must not be unmindful of another class, called saprophytes, as they find their nourishment in dead tissue, and produce decomposition and putrefaction, also carbonic acid gas, ammonia, and water, and which is necessary to the maintenance of life in the vegetable kingdom, and so indirectly to our well-being, for what would our diet list be were it deprived of the fresh green vegetables and juicy fruits?

I wish to turn our attention more particularly to the more common forms of pathogenic bacteria, viz., bacteria having the power to produce diseases, and with which we meet in some shape or form in every room and ward in the hospital.

Pathogenic bacteria, which are also called parasites, require living tissue for their sustenance, and when they gain an entrance into the human system at once begin their destructive work.

The staphylococcus pyogenus, in form round or slightly oval, is found often in infected wounds, the discharge being a thick, greenish yellow pus.

These bacteria belong to the class known as micrococci, and this particular species is very virulent and also very resistant to deleterious agents, so that in attending to a patient with such an infected wound the nurse must be extremely careful to cleanse her hands thoroughly before responding to any other call. To let you see the necessity for this care, we will suppose that after dressing such a wound, without first scrubbing her hands in soap and water (green soap preferred) and disinfecting them in a 5 per cent. solution of carbolic acid or in bichloride of mercury, of a strength 1 to 5,000, as a nurse with any idea of antisepsis would do, she went directly to a patient with delicate eyes or some abrasion of the skin, it would be a very simple matter for her to carry infection that might cause serious trouble or even cost that patient his life.

I mention this illustration to impress on you the great responsibility resting upon a nurse and the importance of the fact that she not only fights what infection there may be previous to her taking charge of the case, but that she must feel her conscience is clear.

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