

which was on wheels, and could be moved with ease wherever it was required. An excellent stand for bed-pans also attracted attention. In proximity to the ward is a play-room, furnished on Lilliputian lines to suit the size of its wee occupants, and with a wealth of toys which must delight the hearts of the children.

The hospital charges 2.50 marks (about 2s. 6d. in English money) for each patient per day, which is paid either by the parents or by the State, unless a case is exceptionally interesting, when it is received free of charge. When a private patient is received, the charge is at the rate of 8 marks a day. The most charming place in the whole of this hospital was the out-patient department. Here the children wait, and "must be amused," so the walls are decorated with designs not only of high artistic excellence, but also calculated to delight the little out-patients as well as their seniors. The tones of colours also are most harmonious and pleasing; indeed, the department is an ideal one. A thoughtful provision in this department is the steriliser, in which mothers can prepare their infants' milk while waiting.

On inquiring as to the mortuary arrangements, we found that no mortuary is provided, as this work is undertaken by the police, who are communicated with in the event of a death. In the general wards the effect of the arched ceilings, the primary object being to prevent the settlement of dust, is admirable, and the decoration, white with pale green tracery, is most tasteful. The wards have wide balconies overlooking the shady gardens, on to which the patients can easily be wheeled, and thus obtain the fresh air so essential to their well-being.

The principal operating theatre was arranged on the latest aseptic principles. The floor space was comparatively small, but tier upon tier in a semi-circle rose seats for the students present at operations and lectures. The flushing arrangements are designed so that the whole theatre can be washed down from top to bottom. No expense has been spared in the appointment of this theatre, and the washstands have topaz tops which cost £500 apiece. They are furnished with thermometers to test the heat of the water as it passes into the basins. The sterilising arrangements are very thorough. The baskets, lined with ticking, in which the dressings are sterilised are a novelty to English nurses, but in practice they are found quite efficacious.

It should be mentioned that the nursing staff in the women's wards consists of one Sister and four "ward workers"; in the men's, one Sister and five male nurses; who, after serving for two years, receive courses of lectures. These men appeared of a most superior class.

The organisation of the nursing department at the Charité appeared strange to English and Ameri-

can nurses. The Director in absolute control was a man, a most courteous and able administrator, to judge from the acquaintance of an hour, but, owing to sex, in a false position as Matron-in-Chief.

Each Sister was apparently an isolated mistress of her ward, subject only to the authority of the male Director, and we watched with interest the attitude of the Sisters to their master. Master—that is the exact word which describes their relations, and a lordly master at that; punctiliously polite, benevolent; one to be adored, and the adoration was artlessly evident. We forgot all about sickness and science in watching the comedy and tragedy of the relation of the sexes, as illustrated by the erect and dominating freeman and those sleek-haired, dove-eyed conventual women. Sad to say, both appeared more than content, the waiters of incense and he to whom homage was due.

E. G. F.

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



A GOOD WORK FOR WOMEN.—The Hospital for Women in Soho Square, the pioneer institution of its class in the kingdom, is at the present time in great need of assistance to enable the Committee to continue its beneficent work for poor and suffering women. Last year's accounts closed with a deficit of £426, and there is a mortgage debt on the buildings of £7,500, which involves a very heavy charge yearly for interest. The work which the hospital does is most excellent, and the death-rate among the patients, most of whom undergo very serious operations, compares most favourably with that prevailing at the most modern and up-to-date institutions. Money is not asked for building purposes, but simply for current expenses to enable the Committee to keep open the sixty free beds. Last year, 850 patients were treated in the wards, and there were 4,444 out-patients who made 17,103 attendances. The institution is conducted on most economical lines, and in the past year the average weekly cost of each in-patient was reduced from £2 8s. 9d. to £2 1s. 9d., and the cost of each out-patient from 3s. 6d. to 2s. The charitable may safely give to the hospital in the full assurance that their money will be wisely expended in the relief of suffering, and any donations sent to the secretary, Mr. D. Cannon, will be thankfully received.

A GOOD FRIEND.—Miss Thomas, of Llwynmadoc, has again come to the assistance of the Cardiff Infirmary by subscribing £100 for the equipment of the Shand Ward. The ward is now nearing completion, and it is expected that sixteen beds out of the twenty-eight will be ready next week for the reception of patients.

IN FAVOUR OF THE STUDY OF HYGIENE.—The President of the Board of Education (Lord Londonderry) has arranged to receive on Monday at 12.30 at the Privy Council Office an influential deputation of leading members of the medical profession, who will present a petition in favour of the compulsory teaching

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