

AN ASEPTIC WALLET FOR NURSES.

We have for long wondered that the leather wallet for instruments still worn by some nurses is tolerated.



Anyone who takes the trouble to delve into its recesses will find quite a bed of fluff and dust in which the points of the instruments it carries continually rest, the accumulation being of weeks, months, and even years standing, for it is quite impossible to cleanse such a wallet, and its expense does not admit of its frequent renewal by nurses. Even the predecessor of the wallet, the chains, which were rightly discarded because they jingled as the nurse moved up and down the ward, were preferable from the point of view of cleanliness, for the instruments worn at least rested against a clean apron, or were tucked into the waistband, which, if not sterile, was at any rate frequently renewed. We have pleasure, therefore, in drawing attention to the wallet which has been sent to us by Nurse Barry, late of Vincent Hospital, Dublin, and

which has been patented by her. It is made of white piqué, which can, of course, be not only washed but boiled, and should, therefore, entirely supplant any wallet to which this method of disinfection is inapplicable. We should like to suggest to the inventor that the pockets for the reception of the instruments might be made by stitching tape to the front portion, when this could be detached at the sides, and form a straight piece with the back when the wallet is washed. The wallet is decorated by a red cross in turkey twill, attached by tiny hooks, and removable at will. The price of this washable wallet is only 2s., so that no one need be deterred from procuring it by the cost. Nurse Barry is to be congratulated on her very ingenious and useful invention.

Legal Matters.

In a case heard before Judge Selfe, at Brompton, on Monday, in which Dr. J. T. Armstrong sued a patient to recover fees for professional services, there was a counter-claim of overcharge for a nurse's attendance. In cross-examination, the plaintiff admitted that he charged the patient £2 2s. a week for the attendance of the nurse who was in his service, £1 1s. of which went into his own pocket. It was a usual custom when the nurse was in the employment of the medical man, otherwise in slack times he would lose on her. Asked if the nurse in question was trained, the doctor replied: "She was trained by me for years."

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.*



At the meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, held in Birmingham on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses and the Registered Nurses' Society were represented by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; the Royal British Nurses' Association by Miss M. E. Jones, Matron of the Birmingham General Hospital; and the Matrons' Council by Miss K. E. Richmond, Matron of the Women's Hospital, Birmingham.

Miss E. S. Fountain and Miss A. M. Silver acknowledge with thanks cheques for £2 12s. 6d. Each has received this sum as her share of the £5 5s. prize competition.

We are glad to learn that as soon as the necessary accommodation can be secured, the nursing staff at St. Bartholomew's Hospital is to be increased by thirty additional members in order to reduce the time on duty of the nurses to between eight and nine hours daily. Those who worked in the wards when the day nurses were on duty from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., with two brief half-hours for meals, the time allowed for recreation being two evenings a week, from 6 to 8.45 p.m., and a whole day once a month, will wonder whether the nurses of the present day realise their good fortune, and the many advantages—including separate bedrooms, greater educational privileges, and shorter hours of work—which have been gained for them by their Matrons during the last quarter of a century. The modern nurse cannot plead that the length of time which she spends on duty precludes her from taking her share in matters of general interest to her profession.

We learn that in the recent examination of nurses at St. Bartholomew's the first place in the final examination was gained by Miss Lees, while in the examination of first-year probationers Miss Crump attained this distinction.

After a period of forty-five years spent in Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C., St. John's House is shortly to move to Queen Square, Bloomsbury. Founded in 1848 for the Training and Employment of Nurses for Hospitals, the Poor, and Private Families, the House has behind it a record of fifty-seven years of excellent work. St. John's House Nurses were

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)