

much of the art. The material now used in kindergartens is far better for a patient to handle than ordinary clay.

With younger children, a pair of scissors and some stiff paper ought to supply many hours occupation. The nurse must not display all her accomplishments at once, nor show too marked a superiority. When the child has been induced to cut out a house, for example, she should not do more than make one just a little better, with perhaps the addition of a balcony or a dog kennel. Her propositions should never be too ambitious. If she says, "Let us make a farm and all the animals," and then it ends in a house that will not stand without visible assistance, a cow with three legs and no tail, and a pig with a more than cousinly resemblance to a sheep, the child is naturally disappointed. While if she had said, "Let us make a little cottage and an old woman living in it," and had then added a hen and a cat and a neighbour's intrusive dog, there would be a delighted sense of achievement instead of failure.

Doll dressing is a great resource, and in infectious cases wonderful costumes can be prepared from sheets of crinkled tissue paper, while if the nurse will condescend to make a set of bandages for a favourite doll and show how they are applied, she will for ever hold a special niche in the child patient's heart. Do not fear that children will resent the daily destruction of these paper treasures; the only stipulation suggested by the hardness of their little hearts will be, "Let me see them burn, then!"

In dealing with boys past the age of childhood, considerable tact is needed. It would often be easy enough to amuse them in their weak state of mind and body if only they could trust the nurse not to say to all comers, "J. was delighted with this," or "very much charmed" by the other, instead of being silently thankful that he was, and burying the fact in the oblivion that schoolboys think decent.

With regard to slang, the nurse had better accept her boy patients' language without comment, except when interpretation is really necessary, but she should avoid all but the most ordinary colloquialisms herself. The lads may consider purists absurd, but only slang itself would express their opinion of her if she uses their *argot* incorrectly, or brings out phrases that have been discarded "by every fellow" for the enormous period of two or three years.

When we come to the end of our little list, it remains true that it is on her conversational ability, especially on her power of making the patients talk, that the nurse must chiefly depend, and she must therefore do all she can by reading, reflection, observation, and sympathy to cultivate and improve whatever natural gift for *causerie* she may possess.

## The Registered Nurses' Society.



The eleventh Annual Meeting of the Registered Nurses' Society was held in the the Board Room of the Offices, 431, Oxford Street, on Thursday, July 13th, at 5 p.m. The whole suite of rooms were beautifully decorated with flowers sent specially by Sister Heather—roses, carnations, sweetpeas in every delicate shade of colour, stocks, poppies, with much feathery gypsophela, and exquisite green ferns.

Owing to the fact that nearly every member was busy at work, but few were able to attend to hear from Dr. Bedford Fenwick, who was in the chair, a very satisfactory report of the year's work, in which he said that there had been a considerable increase in the number of cases attended, that no less than 125 new practitioners had commenced to send to the offices for nurses, and in consequence there was a considerable increase in the income. The earnings of the nurses who have been at work throughout the past twelve months have varied from £163 16s. for fifty-two weeks' work, to £83 17s. for twenty-eight weeks' work, the average being no less than £101 14s. for an average of 42.7 weeks' work.

Sisters Boden, R. Holliday (resigned), McMahon (resigned on marriage), and Mason retire from the Committee, and Sisters Dorran, K. Holliday, Rawlings, and Tate were appointed to take their place.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. Superintendent, was again elected to represent the Society on the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, which will this year meet at Birmingham on October 25th, with power to nominate a substitute should she be unable to attend.

The Committee, according to the printed report, "are glad again to express their complete approval and satisfaction at the manner in which Miss Sophia Cartwright, the Secretary, has performed her onerous and very responsible duties during the past year," and the Chairman took occasion to express the high opinion in which Miss Cartwright was held by the hon. officers, who alone could estimate her untiring devotion to duty, and the accuracy and business-like quality of her work.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick for their continued interest in and work for the Society, after which a very dainty tea was provided and enjoyed by all present.

Permission has been granted by the King to Mrs. T. E. Richardson, of Manordilo, Carmarthenshire, to wear the Japanese order conferred by the Mikado for her services to the sick and wounded in the Japanese military hospitals.

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