

much anxiety as to the work of relays of new probationers, as the instructor is responsible to her for its efficiency. From the point of view of the pupil the plan is ideal, for she is systematically taught the best methods of performing her work instead of learning them by hard and very often bitter experience, or in the course of a reprimand, when by reason of her ignorance anything has gone wrong.

The preliminary course, outlined by Mrs. Hampton Robb, includes instruction in Household Economics (comprising the practical care of the wards and their appendages, the care of linen, and dietetics), and Nursing Economics (comprising bacteriology, practical chemistry, anatomy and physiology, materia medica, pharmacy, the surgical supply room, ethics, and hospital etiquette).

The second half of the first year is devoted to general medical and surgical nursing, and instruction and practice in physical culture.

The second year is devoted to special subjects, including surgical technique, gynaecology, infectious diseases, constitutional diseases, children, and massage.

The third year is spent in the study and practical work connected with obstetrics, infants, the care of the nervous and insane, and diseases of the skin, eye and ear, and throat and nose.

It will thus be seen that a very complete course is outlined, and that a pupil who passes through it intelligently and conscientiously should be well equipped for the performance of her work as a graduate nurse.

A feature of the hospitals in the United States is the paying ward, and Mrs. Robb's description of it will be read with interest. The paying wards afford most excellent training ground for the future private nurse.

The chapter on the care and disinfection of an infected room is very carefully written, and will well repay study.

The care of the dead is a subject which is detailed with some minuteness. It is a duty to which nurses should pay special attention, and a nurse should not regard her care of a deceased patient at an end until his body has been reverently prepared for burial.

The chapter on baths includes not only instruction in ordinary bathing, but in various medicinal baths. The temperature, pulse and respiration, which in health "bear a certain ratio to one another," are also fully dealt with.

Detailed instruction as to the pulse is not common in nursing text books, and the nurse who realises that "taking the pulse" does not only imply the accurate counting of its beats will value the instruction given in a by no means easy duty.

The chapter on the administration of medicines, including sub-cutaneous medication, is a most useful one indeed, the whole book is full of valuable information, well and lucidly arranged by one who thoroughly knows her subject. We hope that it will be read by many nurses in this country. Certainly it should find a place on the shelves of every training-school library. We cannot attempt to present an exhaustive review in the space at our disposal, but we hope we have said enough to induce our readers to study the book at the earliest possible moment.

## Our Foreign Letter.

IN AN ITALIAN HOSPITAL.  
(Continued from page 297, Vol. xxxv.)

NAPLES, August 3rd.

I am trying to carry on all the most important things in the three wards, so that Sister G— will



not find there has been a relapse into too many bad habits. But it is not possible to wash all the bed-ridden patients in

both the male medical wards with absolute regularity, and I cannot attempt to do it to the women patients, only the "prevention of bed-sore" washings I see to there.

I begin with the downstairs patients, as the chief often makes the *visita* there, and appreciates clean patients. Then I go up to Sala I., where I get through as many washings as is possible before they come to tell me rounds are beginning downstairs.

I find that not having a thing makes it doubly appreciated. Even our especially dirty beggar patient expostulated with me this morning when his family arrived before I had been able to wash him!

After rounds, orders are carried out, hypodermics given, and temperature slates arranged. We have no charts here, but each bed has a slate fixed at its head, and the doctors copy on the patient's diary the temperatures which the infermieri have marked during twenty-four hours. We have instituted an orderly ruling these slates in accordance as to whether the temperatures are taken three, six, or twelve-hourly, and for several days charting. So there are usually several to prepare daily after the doctor has copied their contents.

By this time the medicines arrive from the pharmacy, and must be taken round and explained. After this I go upstairs and finish the washings, and give out the medicines, &c., &c., when it is time for their dinner, and afterwards for my lunch. At two the "hours of silence" begin, and till four everyone in the whole Hospital tries to rest, if not to sleep. As my room is over the downstairs male ward, I can hear if all goes well, so read or doze if it is quiet—as much as is compatible with the incursions of fleas, which have possession of the one comfortable arm-chair, and try to take it of my person.

At four, medicines, piques, frictions, at five the supervision of (and assistance in), the scrubbing of beds with sublimate and turpentine—one or two beds in each ward daily, the patients being laid on an empty bed meanwhile. At six the evening round, followed by carrying out of last orders; after which I leave, walking home along the Corso crowded with children, in the most elementary costumes, often only a shift in fact, but the girls, even of five or six, with elaborate coiffeurs all the same.

Our tubercular cases continue to take up a third of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)