

knowledge comes with all the freshness of an independent scientific discovery.

Space forbids me to do more than indicate the method that experience has shown to be practicable.

The bookless, penless child, surrounded by Nature and Nature's tools, will learn truly that culture comes from within, not from without, that it is dependent on *ourselves*, on our own free will as rational beings. It will gradually recognise in the familiar, industrial implements that surround it historical and human landmarks—having learnt their meaning by practically knowing their want.

It will recognise that "Progress" is due to a series of intelligent efforts, probe its own powers of invention, and learn by its own failures to venerate superiority of intellect.

In the freedom of woods and wilds it will learn indirectly that obedience to law spells "liberty" and much besides that is only learnt in Heaven's own schoolroom.

The Dusseldorf Hospital.

The fine new hospital at Dusseldorf is to be opened in April next. The matron will be Sister Helene Meyer, a member of the German Nurses' Association, who has held the position of head nurse in the famous Eppendorf Hospital at Hamburg, and in Gülhané, the large Army Hospital in Constantinople. At present she is doing matron's duties at the Luise Hospital, Dortmund.

The Association of Nursing-Superintendents of India.

The first report of the Association of Indian Superintendents has reached us, and it is significant of the progress of this Association, founded at a conference of nurses held in 1905, with the object of introducing a higher standard of training for nurses in India, that already its enlarged scope has resulted in a change of name. Originally it was the Association of Nursing Superintendents of the United Provinces and the Punjab, but now it has members not only in these districts but in the North-West Frontier Provinces, the Bombay Presidency, the Madras Presidency, and in Travancore. The Association will therefore henceforth be known as "The Association of Nursing Superintendents of India." The President of the Association is the Hon. F. M. Macnaghten, and the hon. secretary and treasurer, Miss J. W. Thorpe.

Practical Points.

An Ingenious Sun-blind. A contemporary describes an ingenious sun-blind, at once cool, cheap, and not too darkening, which may be useful to

district nurses. This blind is the invention of an enterprising Colonial woman, and only needs about two yards of coarse apron-sacking for its manufacture. The sacking is machined to prevent raw edges, and the window being open top and bottom, the sacking is hung over the glass, and by means of a loop at each corner and a small nail in the corners of the frame, it is kept in place. There should be a sufficiently long flag at the top and bottom of the blind to allow it to hang inwards at the top of the window, and to allow it to keep the sun at bay at the bottom when the window is open. If hung up overnight, in a sunny aspect, the room never gets hot. "Keep the glass cool," is the Colonial advice, "and your room will never get hot."

Surgical Technique.

In an admirable address on Surgical Technique read before the North Idaho District Medical Society, Dr. C. P. Thomas says:

—"It is surprising how many surgeons, after taking these precautions, will spoil it all by handling some non-sterile thing without knowing it. One of Germany's most noted surgeons has twenty assistants to clean up at every clinic and stand against the wall during the time he is operating with their hands in one position. They are constantly watched, and if one is seen to make a break he is put back to the foot of the class and deprived for many days of the privilege of assisting, the four helpers being taken in rotation from the head of the class.

Silkworm gut which should be boiled ten minutes and kept in tincture of iodine, is the best splint suture for not only bringing the parts in apposition (if put in right), but in quietly keeping them there until union has taken place. Its removal is also easy. Horse hair, which is cheap and easily prepared, is the best skin suture, because it is weak, smooth and elastic. It should be prepared as follows: Wash daily for one week, changing the water each time, keeping it constantly immersed, then boil for three minutes and keep in alcohol until used.

While on the subject of drainage, I wish to make a few remarks. We have, as you know, three principal forms of drainage—tubular, capillary by gauze, and wick, the latter consisting of gauze surrounded by rubber tissues or oiled silk. Neither of these latter substances can be boiled, but experience has shown that they can be made sterile by thorough washing with soap and water and keeping in 1-1,000 bi-chloride solution.

It should be remembered that two people should never be given an anæsthetic with one inhaler unless it has been thoroughly sterilised in the meantime. Tuberculosis, pneumonia, syphilis and numerous other infectious diseases might be thus transmitted

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