

rinsed in soda water, and then left in clear cold water ready for use. Cups and spoons used in connection with baby's food should receive the same care and treatment.

Mothers should take care that their nipples are kept daily cleansed when they feed their babies, and the baby's mouth, tongue, and gums swabbed night and morning with glycerine and borax on a little piece of linen. A fresh piece of rag must, of course, be used each time.

The roof of the mouth is very important; this is very often the place where the little specks of thrush are to be seen, before even the gums or tongue get infected. Thrush is not a necessity, and can be easily avoided if the rule of thorough cleanliness is observed. The old gamps still say in Hertfordshire, "If you don't have the thrush at your birth, you will before you die." I am sure we are all glad that this is not the case.

Scottish Nursing Notes.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

Next to St. Thomas's Hospital, London, the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, is surely the most beautiful hospital in Great Britain. Built almost entirely of a delicate toned grey stone, it presents a very stately and baronial appearance. Moreover, it is our largest hospital. It contains 900 beds, and has attached the largest medical school in the Kingdom. The pride of the Scottish people in this splendid institution is not difficult to understand.

It is eminently becoming that the Head of the Nursing Department of so important a hospital should be quite an exceptional woman, and we think in the recent appointment of Miss Gill to the office of Lady Superintendent, the Board of Management have been fortunate in securing one. Dignity, courtesy, kindness, animation, combine to give great charm of manner to a delightful personality, and with a wide experience of life and professional affairs, one realises at once that Miss Gill will fulfil the duties of her great position in a manner which must place the training school in connection with the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in the very first rank. The influence of the Matron in the standing of a nurse training school will always remain paramount. Hence the importance of selection when such appointments are made.

Since our last visit to the Royal Infirmary, two new blocks have been finished, and are now in working order—the Throat and Ear,

and the Eye pavilions—and the special treatment of the diseases of these organs have been provided for in a very careful and perfect manner under the direction of eminent specialists. In spite of hordes of students, nearly 1,000, we believe, working at Edinburgh, these highly specialised departments provide excellent practical experience for the probationers.

The nurses now have a little dispensary cunningly fitted, in which, in classes of ten, they are taught elementary materia medica, a very great need in the curriculum of most training schools. Foolish people may sniff at the "over-trained nurse," but sick people prefer that their nurses should know what they are doing, and what is a "poison dose" when they handle drugs. Rule of thumb may be all very well in manipulating "sugar and spice and all that's nice," but when it comes to ingredients, in which death may lurk, it is just as well to know their relative values, and dangers.

The Board has quite recently laid down a fine asphalted tennis court for the nurses, so that they can play during the winter. They have also a charming country convalescent home near Colinton, so that fresh air and exercise are well within the reach of all those who wisely enjoy them. Some there are amongst our nurses to whom "the scallop-shell of quiet" irresistibly appeals, and for these there are now in times off duty the "silence" room, innumerable friends peeping through the panels of the book-cases, and a comfy chair in the chimney corner.

With an increase of beds and extended demands of scientific medical and surgical treatment the present Nurses' Home is proving all too small. It is not improbable, therefore, that a new Home may be built in the near future. The period of training at Edinburgh is three years, before certification, but to keep up a thoroughly efficient staff of experienced nurses, they are encouraged to remain a fourth year. This fourth year's service is compulsory in many London hospitals, but if exacted it should be well paid for, as it is at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. A nurse's earning life is so very short.

Anyway, we feel sure not only Edinburgh nurses, but Scottish nurses as a whole may rely upon the new Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, to advocate just and progressive conditions of education and work for them, and to use her influence to procure them.

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