

the pains to instruct a novice in the art, or to plan a whole morning's work in detail, and show a nurse how to go about her work systematically, and get through, but that is not training nurses.

"The abuse of hospital supplies and appliances is one of the very frequent complaints heard. It is a point on which much depends on the head nurse. Eternal vigilance, with careful accounting for supplies, are the only ways by which those addicted to such carelessness can be made to feel their responsibility for the proper use of the appliances provided.

"Every now and then the announcement is made of the poisoning of a patient in the hospital, by a wrong dose of medicine. No head nurse who appreciates her responsibility, will ever allow herself to be guilty of carelessness where drugs are concerned, neither will she tolerate carelessness in the nurses whom she directs. There are a few lessons that need to be repeated seventy times seven, or oftener, in a nurse's course. One of these lessons is regarding the precautions to be used in the handling of drugs. Teach them first, that there is an element of danger in every drug; teach them never to give or use a drug of any kind that is not labelled; never to give a drug in the dark; never to omit reading the label carefully and measuring the dose accurately; never to use a pill or capsule that has escaped accidentally from its container; never to give a medicine they have a shadow of a doubt about; teach first, last, and all the time, the necessity of being careful in reading the label; that it is not enough to glance at a bottle and see, the word "opium," for instance, without taking time to notice whether it was the tincture, or the camphorated preparation. Teach that they must not hastily jump at conclusions regarding doses, for instance, must not rush off and give two one-thirtieth grain tablets of strychnia, because one-sixtieth is ordered, and they happen to know that twice thirty is sixty. Teach these few principles thoroughly, drill them on them frequently, keep the most strongly poisonous drugs separate from the others, write orders clearly and distinctly, and such accidents will be few and far between."

The Local Government Board has issued to Boards of Guardians a circular directing attention to Section E of the new rules of the Central Midwives' Board recently approved by the Privy Council, the section in question relating to "regulating, supervising, and restricting within due limits the practice of midwives."

The Hospital World.

THE WEST HAM & EAST LONDON HOSPITAL.

There can be little doubt that in densely populated West Ham, a large, well-equipped Hospital is indispensable, and that the sooner the 60 beds now available at the West Ham and East London Hospital at Stratford are increased to 100 the better for the poor people at its gates. And this is just what the Hospital's friends intend doing. Faced with the absolute necessity of further enlargement (beds have sometimes to be made-up on the ward floors), the High School Site has been acquired, on which to build an extension, and on Saturday last at a most earnest and interesting ceremony, the Stone was laid by the Duchess of Marlborough, supported on the platform by the Mayor, the Medical and Nursing Staffs, and ministers of many denominations.

The extension when built will include a new Casualty Department, an up-to-date Operating Theatre, two new wards containing 20 beds each, to be called respectively "The Annie Zunz," and the "Consuelo Marlborough." The estimated cost of carrying out the extension is about £20,000, and towards this amount £14,000 has been raised.

Prayer and Praise were offered, and a Blessing asked on the work before the stone was laid, in which the kindly men who form the Committee joined heartily. To judge from the faces of the audience, the care of the sick poor in this hospital is, indeed, a labour of love to those who manage it. The Duchess of Marlborough, who possesses a pathetic personality, performed her part very gracefully, and replied with that lack of self-consciousness which is so truly American, to the many gracious words of thanks offered to her, for her interest in the hospital.

Hundreds of guests were present, and the wards were open for their inspection. The whole institution, was, of course, in gala array, a wonderful wealth of flowers to be seen everywhere. The wards, which are very bright, appeared also very comfortable, and we noticed that the nurses were very busy; new patients being admitted, screens round beds, no cessation for an hour in this busy hospital of the care of the sick and needy.

Tea and refreshments seemed provided everywhere—in the garden and in several apartments (one lady got a lovely hot cup in the kitchen—she knew her way about). Miss Ough, the charming Matron, who received many congratulations, made us welcome in her pretty sitting-room, which was a perfect bower of flowers.

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