

scheme deserves the greatest possible support as the poorest are provided with trained and thoroughly efficient nurses.

In Bordeaux the nursing schools are flourishing, and the demand for the nurses trained and certificated in them greater every day. Through the good offices of Dr. Anna Hamilton, visiting nursing in the homes of the poor, and also in schools, has just been begun—an entirely new departure in Bordeaux, and one which is arousing the greatest interest.

The importance and responsibility of private nursing are seldom insisted upon. In the States the attitude of the profession generally towards this most important branch of work is far more rational and sympathetic. Recently on the recommendation of Miss Damer, the Board of Management of the great Bellevue Hospital in New York has decided that lectures on Private Nursing shall be given to the practitioners.

Miss Charlotte A. Aikens, writing in the *Canadian Nurse*, on "The Care of the Hands," after commenting on the carelessness of many nurses with respect to the use of scrubbing brush and nail cleaner, and pointing out some of the evil results of dirty hands, says:

"A superintendent passing through a ward observed a nurse, one who was about to graduate in a few months, about to remove a vaginal packing and give a douche. The case was cancer of the uterus; the packing was filthy, odorous, and dangerous, and the nurse knew it. It was only by chance, a few minutes later, that the superintendent discovered her removing this packing with her unprotected fingers, because 'the thumb forceps had been sterilised to handle clean dressings.' Why will nurses do such things?"

"Infected fingers are all too common among nurses. Suffering occurs, time is lost, and the work embarrassed, many, many times, simply because a nurse was careless enough, or slovenly enough, or foolhardy enough (it seems to be a mixture of all three elements) to handle pus dressings with her fingers instead of with her forceps. However many pairs of forceps a hospital may provide for ward dressings, every nurse needs her very own forceps, which she should carry with her all the time she is on duty. She needs these forceps from the first day she begins to take care of a patient. No nurse can afford to run the risk of handling infected dressings with her fingers. It is a bad paying policy as well as bad nursing practice—one that stamps, a nurse at once as either careless or badly trained."

Miss Aikens recommends one per cent. solution of lysol for routine use in disinfecting the hands. She emphasises the necessity of keeping the hands healthy as well as clean, because of the hopelessness of sterilising a skin that is chapped and fissured.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The English people have, during the week, given an enthusiastic reception to M. Fallières, the President of the French Republic, and London has been gaily decorated in his honour.

His Majesty has consented to lay the commemoration stone of the new King Edward VII. Hospital and Dispensary, for Windsor, Eton, and district, on Monday, June 22nd. An appeal is being made for additional support for the building fund. Up to now the sum contributed is £10,817. The total sum still required is £10,000.

The Duke of Abercorn is anxious to raise a sum of money to enlarge the nurses' quarters at the West London Hospital, and to provide improved accommodation for the treatment of out-patients. As a solitary example of the usefulness of this hospital, its registers show that it has treated no less than 121 casualties from the building of the Franco-British Exhibition, 77 of which have occurred during the present year. One of these cases was fatal, and one is lying in the wards at the present moment.

The report of the Treasurer (Mr. Cosmo Bonsor) upon the work done during 1907 at Guy's Hospital, of which the King is Patron and the Prince of Wales President, states that at the close of the year all loans had been discharged, and the hospital, chiefly through the testamentary beneficence of Mr. Albert Beit and Mr. Samuel Lewis, stood free from debt, for which welcome relief the Governors desire to express their warm gratitude. It brings them to the position of having completed and paid for practically all the works included in the appeal of 1901, restated in the supplementary appeal of 1905, and clears the way for a concentration of effort upon the very necessary tasks which remain, the most immediate of which are the augmentation of regular income and the provision of those further special works enumerated in the previous report, namely, a new out-patient department, separate children's wards, and the rebuilding of clinical house. The first of these works has already been proceeded with, on the strength of munificent contributions towards the special object from an anonymous donor and from the Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London. The volume of work done by the hospital in 1907 exceeded that of any previous year.

The Ladies' Association connected with the Great Northern Central Hospital are interesting themselves in aid of the Children's Ward Fund. There should be such wards in every general hospital, if the children admitted are to benefit by treatment. Sir John and Lady Dickson-Poynder are the spirit of the movement, and the latter, at a recent meet-

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