

The Hospital World.

THE BROMPTON HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION

One of the institutions visited by a party of members of the International Congress of Nurses, was the Brompton Hospital for Consumption, to view which a kind invitation was extended by the Matron, Miss Lloyd Still. The wards at the hospital are comparatively small, and open on to corridors which the patients who are well enough to be up, and are not out of doors, use as sitting rooms, as they are comfortably furnished. Each corridor is in charge of a Sister.

It is evidence of the attention paid to disinfection at this hospital that not only the expectoration of the patients is disinfected and destroyed, and the sputum cups sterilised, a very complete system being adopted for this purpose, but the sheets of every patient ill enough to remain in bed are placed in linen bags at the bedside, and disinfected before being sent to the laundry. This applies not only to patients suffering from tuberculosis of the lungs, but from other forms of the disease also. The result of the great care taken as to disinfection is that the Matron is able to state that though nurses who have contracted tuberculosis while connected with general hospitals have on various occasions been admitted as patients, no nurse at Brompton has contracted tuberculosis during her term of office.

Paper handkerchiefs are not in favour at Brompton, but all handkerchiefs are sterilised, and washed daily in the hospital.

Great attention is paid to the training of the nurses who get good experience in the nursing of all forms of chest diseases, and during the whole of their second year they are sent at the expense of the Governing Body, which pays their salaries during this time; to large general hospitals for experience in general work. They also have experience in operation work at Brompton Hospital, where there is an excellently appointed operating theatre. The hospital possesses the only compressed air bath in England, and a mortuary where adequate arrangements are made for the reverent care of the dead. The Nurses' Home is charming, flooded with light, sunny and attractive, and in this home, before leaving to join the party visiting Windsor, the Congress members who visited the hospital on that notable Saturday were hospitably provided with refreshments.

The nursing arrangements at the hospital at Frimley where carefully selected cases, showing good resisting powers are drafted, are also under the supervision of Miss Lloyd Still. A Sister-in-Charge supervises the nursing and the staff is composed of certificated nurses.

Legal Matters.

NURSE'S ACTION FOR WRONGFUL DISMISSAL.

A case of considerable interest was heard before Mr. Justice Grantham at the Birmingham Assizes, when Miss Emily Ashley, a nurse in training at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, brought an action against the authorities of the hospital for wrongful dismissal before the completion of her training. The defendants submitted that their action was justified on the ground that the plaintiff had broken hospital regulations.

It was stated in evidence that the nurse went on night duty on December 28th at 8.10 p.m., having taken 10 grs. of veronal that morning and 5 grs. on the previous one because she could not sleep, which she admitted to the Day Sister; that when the Night Sister visited the ward at 10.40 p.m. she was sitting in a chair looking either ill or as if she had been sleeping. She complained of feeling ill. When the Sister sent her for a thermometer she stumbled over the linoleum, sat down on the fender, and slipped off it on to the floor. She then sat on a chair, and put the thermometer into her mouth, from which it fell after a few seconds. When asked if she had been taking any drug, she admitted having taken veronal. When Sister Wills, the Night Sister, went round the ward, she found that a burnt child, which was in a dying condition, had just expired. She subsequently made a report to the Matron, Miss Buckingham. Later, Nurse Ashley was suspended, and then dismissed.

Dr. Reginald Stocks deposed that when in residence at the hospital he advised the plaintiff to take veronal for sleeplessness, but told her she must ask leave. Miss Buckingham, Matron of the Queen's Hospital, and Miss Musson, Matron of the General Hospital, Birmingham, also gave evidence; also Sister Ellis, Sister Wills, and Dr. Jordan Lloyd.

In summing up, the Judge said a nurse should be the first to realise that she should not take drugs without consulting those who happily were on the spot to be consulted. It seemed to him that the effects of the drug on the plaintiff were pernicious, and she was not in a condition to be left in charge of the ward. If that were so had she not done something which was a serious breach of discipline.

The jury, after retiring for an hour, were unable to agree, and were discharged.

Miss Edith Eleanor Wyles has been committed for trial at the Gloucestershire Quarter Sessions, charged with thefts from her employer. There are other serious allegations.

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