

Naval Nursing Reserve.

It is reported that the Committee which, under the chairmanship of Vice-Admiral Sir John Durnford, has been considering the question of naval nursing, has now submitted its report to the First Lord of the Admiralty. The Royal Naval Nursing Service, of which her Majesty the Queen is President, only numbers some 60 Sisters, and it is therefore certain, that, in the event of naval war, this staff would have to be largely augmented.

The Report of the Committee has not yet been made public, but its tenor may be estimated from a letter which has been sent from the Admiralty to the Matrons of some of the larger hospitals, which states: "We do not propose to enlist individual nurses now by name, but to rely upon the Matrons, with the sanction of their Committees, to select such suitable nurses as they could arrange to spare. . . . By this plan of not allowing nurses to volunteer, except through the Matrons we feel that there would be the least possible disturbance of the organisation of civil hospitals in war time, and that the best nurses would be secured for the sailors."

We regret that this attitude should have been adopted by the Admiralty, and that nurses should thus be denied the individual right of volunteering their services for the care of sick sailors in time of war. We should have supposed that the enthusiasm and patriotism shown by nurses throughout Great Britain, in the Territorial Force Nursing Service, and the proved success of the system of the volunteer method of enrolment, would have demonstrated to the Admiralty the expediency of the adoption of a similar method in the case of the Naval Nursing Reserve. The same system is adopted in the case of the Army Nursing Service Reserve, in connection with which we recently pointed out that it is good for a woman to feel not only that she is part of a great Empire, but that she can enrol her name in its defence, that she can share with men the distinction of voluntarily placing her services and sometimes her life at the disposal of her country, and that it can claim her in danger's hour. We are aware that strong pressure has been brought to bear upon the Admiralty, to induce the authorities to adopt a method of enrolment which is obsolete and unpopular, but it will be difficult for nurses to understand why they are to be permitted to volunteer their services for the care of sick and wounded soldiers in time of war, both at home and abroad, but that the sick sailor is to be placed in a preserve which they may not enter as individuals, and to which they are to be supplied *en bloc*, in common with inanimate stores.

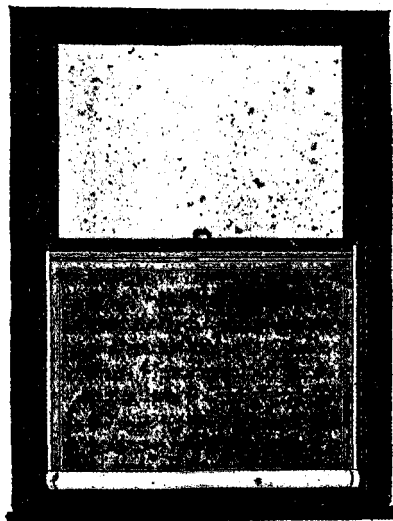
FEVER NURSES' ASSOCIATION & REGISTRATION.

The Fever Nurses' Association is at present giving much consideration to the question of State Registration as it concerns fever hospitals and nurses. Last week a deputation of the Association was received by Mr. R. C. Murro-Ferguson, M.P., when its views were explained to him. There are now about 900 fever hospitals, employing nearly 15,000 nurses, and—through a system of co-operative training—this important specialty must be considered and encouraged.

Practical Points.

The *Lancet* describes an excellent device, invented by Mr. E. H. Hobling, 542, High Street, Leyton, N.E., and

placed on the market by Messrs. Morriss and Birch, 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, named the "Dustorfil" Hygienic Screen. The object of the screen is to permit of ventilation through the window of railway carriages, while excluding dust, cinders, and soot. A roller carrying a fine green gauze curtain is fixed at the top of the ordinary railway carriage window. The ends of the curtain are readily attached to the top of the window frame,



and when the window is lowered the curtain unrolls and takes its place. If it is desired to have the window space quite open the curtain can be detached.

This invention is one which can be applied to many other purposes besides the ventilation of railway carriages. For instance in a summer plague of flies and wasps it would be invaluable if applied to larders and kitchens. The importance of the protection of food from contact with flies is now becoming recognised, not merely for the convenience of the fastidious, but as a necessity of health.

Things Worth Remembering.

Miss Margaret A. Pepoon, in the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast* gathers together many items worth remembering. To relieve blood pressure from head, or throbbing headache, apply ice or very cold pack to cortex and back of head; hot fomentations over eyes and face, not letting them come below jaw. This procedure contracts the arteries which supply the head and dilates the vessels which remove the blood from the head. A little alcohol on the brush helps to straighten out tangled hair.

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