

If these are instituted, and prove economical, we may feel sure that the King's Hospital Fund, or some such body, will advocate the general hospitals to follow in their train. It seems to me that such a plan would mean an immense increase in ward linen stock, but here, again, I should like your opinion.

6. My time is short, but I should very much like to enquire if anyone here has had any experience of washing machines working under steam pressure. Dr. Mackintosh strongly advises such machines working at 10 lb. pressure as efficient sterilisers.

We rely upon hyposulphate of soda and boiling for disinfection.

7. Other matters upon which I hoped to have had your opinion, and upon which, perhaps; some one will kindly speak, are the uses of electricity in the laundry, both for motor power and for heating irons, and the use of water softeners in districts where the water is very hard.

DISCUSSION.

This discussion, which was interesting and informal, was unfortunately rather curtailed, owing to the lateness of the hour. Miss Todd's paper suggested unlimited opportunities for questions and arguments, and a great many interesting points were touched upon.

The members were struck by the difference in price per thousand in the laundries of different hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums' Board; but one member remarked that a great saving would be effected in those laundries where water softeners used; another also suggested that one would want to see the manner in which the linen was washed before one could criticise the price.

All were agreed that the well-being of a steam laundry depended largely upon a good engineer. Miss Row, of Shadwell, was anxious to know whether the washing for a hospital of about 120 beds could be done without men—only an engineer to manage the actual machinery, but not taking part in the actual washing. Both Miss Musson, the late Matron of the Swansea General Hospital, and Miss Mollett, of Southampton, answered her—not only that it could be done, but that the hospital laundries of Swansea and Southampton were run on those lines. The majority of the members who had laundries attached to their hospitals thought that Matrons ought to have some practical knowledge of laundry work, and some knowledge of the machinery employed; and the Chairman (Mrs. Fenwick) said a few words in praise of the care of linen in foreign hospitals and institutions, and she referred to the American system, which provided a domestic science course at Teachers' College, New York, for those who wished to take up the administrative branches of hospital work. She thought that in the future nursing education for Matrons would have to be provided along those lines.

M. MOLLETT, *Hon. Secretary.*

Les Petites Bleues to the Rescue.

We hear that the pupils of the School for Nurses of the Assistance Publique of Paris have achieved great success by their devotion to duty, during the recent disastrous floods in Paris. The Almshouse of Ivry having been flooded, a great number of inmates had to be sent to the Salpêtrière. On hearing of this transfer, the pupils of the School set to work to remove the furniture from several wards in the Salpêtrière, and transformed the ancient chapel as well as two new and as yet uninhabited buildings into a hospital, and put up in a few hours more than 800 beds. As many necessary articles were wanting, they went to their rooms and returned, each carrying a chair, with a blanket and pillow taken from her own bed. With truly admirable courage "les petites bleues" throughout the whole day carried beds and mattresses and in the evening they were ready to welcome the poor old women with kindly smiles and gentle words, as they got down from the carriages which brought them.

Each day since then the "Salpêtriennes" have done their utmost with gentle perseverance to render the change less trying to these poor old grandmothers whose granddaughters they have become by their constant and kindly attentions.

For the way they have carried out this most tiring work, and for their touching care, the pupils have received the high praise of Mr. Silhol, member of the Council of Supervision of the Assistance Publique, who came to visit the Salpêtrière, and found the pupils at work.

It is thanks to the immediate help given by the 180 pupils of the School that the transfer of the pensioners of Ivry was able to take place satisfactorily and in a few hours.

The Territorial Force Nursing Service.

The following members of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, on the staff of the 5th Northern General Hospital, of which Miss Rogers, of Leicester Infirmary, is Principal Matron, received their badges from Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief, T.F.N.S., at Leicester on Tuesday, February 8th:—

Sisters: Misses Sawyer, Milne, Jones, Harris, Browning, Seacome, Laxton, Cunningham, Sly, Outram, Glenn, Hampson, Sandback.

Staff Nurses: Misses Van Wart, Willis, German, Dodd, Ward, Wood, Walmsley, Rosier, Edge, Dunn, Clarke, Cheetham, Bevins, Ashworth, Milnes, Hippinstall, Hampson, Yates, Hamplatt.

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