

Practical Points.

Kissing the Shuttle.

Dr. John Brown, of Bacup, has done good service in calling attention to the habit of "kissing the shuttle" which obtains among weavers. In the process of threading, the shuttles are "kissed" hundreds of times daily, and the moisture of the mouth and lips adheres to the shuttle eye. No systematic attempt is made to cleanse or disinfect the eye, and in this uncleaned condition, the same shuttle may be used by a succession of weavers until the shuttle actually becomes worn out. The spread of infection through the medium of a shuttle is thus almost inevitable, and steps should be taken to ensure that the risks involved are reduced to a minimum. As a first step the Town Clerk of Bacup has addressed the following communication to the manufacturers in the Borough, suggesting the systematic disinfection of shuttles:—"I am directed by the Health Committee of this borough to inform you that they have had under their consideration a report of the Medical Officer of Health on the subject of phthisis (consumption) amongst weavers. They are informed that this disease is much more prevalent amongst weavers than any other class of cotton operatives, and it has been ascertained that three persons who all worked on the same looms have died from tuberculosis of the lungs and peritoneum last year; and in the same period no less than eight weavers have succumbed to phthisis. Tuberculosis is to some extent contagious, and the practice of weavers threading their shuttles by the mouth is a source of danger, and may tend to the spread of this and other diseases. The committee understand that weavers will not use a mechanical shuttle threader, and this being so, they would respectfully suggest, on the grounds of cleanliness and the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, that shuttles should be disinfected by immersion for half-an-hour in a ten per cent. solution of izal, afterwards rinsed in clean water. The izal solution does not injure the shuttle, and is non-poisonous. This should be done at regular intervals, thus preventing the shuttle being a "disease carrier." No shuttle should be used by another weaver before it is disinfected, this being particularly important with regard to the "casual" or "sick-weaver substitute." Where two persons are using the same shuttles, especially as tenters of learners, a mechanical shuttle threader should be made compulsory."

The circular offers the services of a sanitary inspector who will, if desired, disinfect all the shuttles which have been used by weavers suspected to be suffering from phthisis or other infectious disease.

Camphor gum a charm against fleas.

Two men who travelled in Spain recently, where there are many fleas, tried wearing camphor gum about the neck in a bag. They had no discomfort from fleas, and were sure the camphor gum worked a charm.

Appointments.

SECRETARY AND HOUSEKEEPER.

The Nurses' Hostel, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.—Miss Annie Carson Rae has been appointed Secretary and Housekeeper. She was trained at Westminster Hospital, and the National Hospital for Paralysis and Epilepsy, London. She held the position of Matron of the Cork Street Fever Hospital, Dublin, for thirteen years, previous to which she held the positions both of Day Sister and Night Superintendent at the St. Marylebone Infirmary. Miss Carson Rae is also the Secretary of the Irish Nurses' Association.

MATRON.

District Hospital, Shepton Mallett.—Miss Effie E. Bale has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Bristol General Hospital, and was for some years on the private staff of the Bristol Nurses' Institution, and subsequently, for a year, was Sister in a private nursing home in Clifton, and was for a year on the staff of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, Sheffield, where she qualified as a Queen's Nurse.

Fever Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand.—Miss S. E. Polden has been appointed Matron of the new Fever Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and has held the position of Assistant Matron at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, and of Matron at the Royal United Hospital, Bath, and was one of the two Matrons appointed to Number 1 General (City of London) Hospital, Territorial Force Nursing Service.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

St. Nicholas' Home for Crippled Children, Pyrford, near Woking.—Miss Constance Johnson has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Children's Hospital, Brighton, and at the London Hospital, and has worked at the Seamen's Hospital, Royal Albert Docks; King Edward VII. Hospital, Windsor; and the Birmingham Maternity Hospital. She is a certified midwife.

Royal Sea Bathing Infirmary, Margate.—Miss M. Kempson has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at St. George's Hospital, London, where she has filled the position of Night Sister.

NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT.

Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, Bromley-by-Bow, E.—Miss L. Marsh has been appointed Night Superintendent.

NIGHT SISTER.

Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport, Mon.—Miss A. F. Miles has been appointed Night Sister. She was trained at the Bagthorpe Infirmary, Nottingham, and the Isolation Hospital, Norwich, and has held the position of Charge Nurse at the Isolation Hospital, Southampton.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

Workhouse Infirmary, Bridgend.—Mrs. M. E. Wolfe has been appointed Superintendent Nurse. She was trained at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, and has held the position of Sister at the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield; Nurse Matron at St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury; Night Sister at the Cosham Hospital, Bristol; and Nurse Matron of the Eden Hospital, Hatfield, Broad Oak.

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