

should in every instance accompany patients to and from the operating theatre, to see that they are carefully and skilfully moved, and to give professional attendance in any emergency, as hospital porters are entirely untrained.

The hospital authorities of more than one institution opposing the demand for a better system of nursing may well give some consideration to the arrangements in their own institutions. Two deaths were reported last week of children who died from delayed chloroform poisoning in the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C., after being operated upon under chloroform for the removal of tonsils and adenoids. In each case the jury returned a verdict of "Death from misadventure," and expressed the opinion that everything possible for the children had been done at the hospital. But our point is that children who have been operated upon for these conditions should be kept under observation, in a special ward or otherwise, until they have fully recovered from the effects of the anæsthetic, until danger from hæmorrhage is past, and the healing process established. What surgeon would not emphasise the danger of the exposure of a similar case in private practice to foul air, and unskilled attendance. Yet hospital patients sent home immediately after an operation of this kind, as was the case with the children referred to, are subjected to these risks.

Miss M. A. Nutting, Director of the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers' College, New York, U.S.A., writing to acknowledge copies of the Programme and Book of Words of the Nursing Pageant and Masque, expresses her "warm and sincere congratulations upon the beautiful and impressive working out of your idea. The fineness of the original conception, and the way in which it was embodied by Miss Mclell's genius, have moved us to profound admiration. (I had almost said envy and despair, as I realise how impossible it would be to do anything of the kind at present in this country.) I have placed the programme in our students' reading-room."

As usual, when a fire occurs in a hospital, the nursing staff showed presence of mind and promptitude at the City Hospital for Infectious Disease, Fazakerley, Liverpool, last week. The gale dislodged a chimney pot from the roof of a block in the isolation quarter, and some burning soot set fire to the wood-work in the roof. The nurse in charge rushed out to raise

the alarm, and when she returned she found the ceiling ablaze. There were 13 children suffering from measles and whooping cough in the wards, and attention was first given to them. Doctors and nurses hurried to the rescue, and beneath a roof of flame the little patients were carefully wrapped in blankets and transferred to other wards with disciplined coolness. The City Fire Brigade concentrated their efforts on preventing the flames from spreading to the other wooden-built blocks close by, and in this they were successful, for the fire was confined to the one building, which was entirely gutted.

Miss Swain, the Matron, and several members of the nursing staff of the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn, occupied seats on the platform at the recent demonstration in aid of the hospital, organised by the Mayor, Mr. C. W. Perry, as President of the Forward Association. Appealing for increased support, the Mayor said that it was impossible to speak too highly of the skill and patience and devotion of the medical men and the nurses, of the increased earnestness with which all the resources of science and of medical skill were being placed at the disposal of the very poorest. He therefore hoped that in looking at the increased expenditure on such work all would have regard to not simply the cold figures of a balance-sheet, but to the human lives that were saved, and to the human suffering that was relieved as a result of this deeper realisation of the value of even the poorest life, and of the sacredness of the national trust to spend all that is needed to keep it. Let them look at the recently-issued report of their own medical officer. Why was it that only 11 persons in 1,000 died during 1910, against 17 in 1,000 in 1900, and a continually decreasing number in all the years in between? It was the interest received on the money they had spent in providing pure water, paved courts, new sewers, demolition of slums, and in a generally all-round improved sanitary condition.

There was one point of hospital management upon which his Worship said he felt very strongly, and he would never rest until he saw it altered—i.e., the system of admission to the hospital by means of subscribers' recommendations. It seemed such a degradation of a high ideal to retain the old system of admission by a certain signed document that represented power to give a certain subscription. It was retained, not because it could be logically defended, but because of a fear that if a sub-

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