

are so productive of disease. Therefore spittoons should be emptied frequently. After emptying they should first be washed out with cold water, then with very hot water, and finally rinsed through an antiseptic solution, the emptied contents being disinfected carefully and washed away subsequently. Spittoons should, if possible, be sterilised at least once daily, as nothing else can quite compare with this. For phthisical patients a much better plan is a receptacle which can be burnt whole with the contents on a very hot fire, care being taken in its removal from the patient that nothing is spilt. This is then replaced frequently by an entirely new one of a pattern made of cardboard.

We highly commend the papers by Miss M. Denny, Miss Robertson, Miss H. Holmes, Miss E. Bleazby, Miss Fenton, Miss E. F. Lukey, and Mrs. Moakes.

Concerning spittoons, Mrs. Moakes writes:—
“Spittoons of any kind require very particular care, as expectorations of all kinds are disagreeable and offensive. I should burn all this kind of matter, whatever the cause—diphtheria, phthisis, or any other complaint. I always line a spittoon with paper, ready for the patient's use, from a roll of sanitary paper, and take away at once all expectorated matter to the fire or furnace, and leave the vessel washed out with a disinfectant and water. See that the handles are perfectly clean. I have often, when visiting poor homes, and people who did not understand the importance of keeping a spitting vessel clean, shown them the use of paper linings, and found how delighted they were to know a method of keeping a disagreeable article sweet and clean for a patient's use.”

Miss Bleazby points out that “To keep bed-pans and other utensils of that description perfectly clean and free of any offensive odour it is necessary that each time a pan is used it shall be thoroughly swilled out under the tap with cold water. Adherent matter—*feces*, etc.—must be carefully removed from all crevices and bends with tow, or a brush made for the purpose. When the utensil is a bed-pan with a hollow handle a brush must be passed through this and rubbed round to remove all particles. When the utensil is a slipper a thin brush must be used to get well into the ‘toe.’”

QUESTION FOR THIS WEEK.

Mention some forms of respiration that indicate serious conditions, and describe them.

Rules for competing for this competition will be found on page xii.

Miss Lückes on the Bart's Débâcle.

“Let sleeping dogs lie,” is a wise old saying of the peace loving, and we think Miss Lückes, Matron of the London Hospital, would have done well to curb her animus in her annual letter to “London” nurses against those who objected to the “nobbling” of the “Bart's” matronship for one of her retinue of assistants. But as Miss Lückes has thought well to issue broadcast statements on this smouldering wrong which are not accurate, it becomes our duty to the nursing staff at St. Bartholomew's Hospital to correct them.

THE APPOINTMENT OF MISS MCINTOSH.

Miss Lückes writes that the appointment of her senior assistant as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital . . .

“Was made an occasion for a most unfair attack upon the London Hospital Training School, and upon all connected with it, by those who have always been ready to disparage our work. Fortunately, the unworthy spirit which prompted the noisy commotion these agitators determined to make was apparent to all who knew enough of what was going on to be interested in the subject. The unworthy attempts to stir up strife, and make a difficult position still harder, only did the minimum and not the maximum amount of harm.

“It seemed to us very hard lines on the majority of the ‘Bart's’ Nurses that they should be misrepresented to the public as disloyal to the authorities of their own hospital, for we heard on every hand that many past and present ‘Bart's’ nurses were prepared to accept the decision of their own Committee, and to give Miss McIntosh the loyal support which is due to every Matron who accepts a responsible post with a determination to do her duty.

“When the time came for Miss McIntosh to enter upon her present work she was most kindly received on every hand, and is now happily settled down, determined to do her best for the grand old Hospital, and for all the nurses connected with it. Those who know Miss McIntosh know how loyally she would work to maintain its best traditions, and how little ground for anxiety ‘Bart's’ nurses had in receiving anyone so straight-forward and just as Miss McIntosh to be their Matron.”

Everyone who ventures to differ from the Matron of the London Hospital on professional matters is a “noisy agitator,” inspired by an “unworthy spirit,” so we may let that pass, but her statement that an unfair attack was made on the London Hospital nursing system over the appointment of her senior assistant as Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital is untrue. *Facts* were put forth—simple facts—which no amount of bluster and verbosity upon the part of Miss Lückes can controvert.

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