

particulars of this patient's history in supplement of the history of a male patient at another asylum which was reported on April 4th, 1911, and it expressed the opinion that it was a striking illustration of the need for legislation to prevent the increase of the unfit.

### APPLIANCES AT MESSRS. DOWN BROS.

A firm which for many years has had a high reputation for the excellence of its surgical appliances and instruments is Messrs. Down Bros., of 21, St. Thomas Street, S.E., and we have pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to some of their specialities. A patent portable aseptic operation table, weighing only 46 lbs., is greatly appreciated by many surgeons. Its cost, nickel-plated, is £15 15s., or aluminium painted, £13 13s. When closed this table measures 44 in. by 22 in. by 6 in.

A light face screen, made in copper, which can be adjusted with the same ease as a pair of spectacles, is a very useful invention. It can be had with or without a batiste cover, and is designed both with the object of protecting the surgeon and nurse when dealing with an infectious case, and to diminish the risk of their infecting a wound.

Another very useful appliance is the Monthly Nurse's Aseptic Outfit, in a japanned tin case, with a neat canvas cover, containing everything that a monthly nurse can possibly need. The price, complete, is £3 10s. A new antiseptic thermometer case is also worthy of notice.

### THE SCIENTIFIC FEEDING OF INFANTS.

To find a satisfactory substitute for the natural food of an infant when the mother is unable to supply it is always a matter of difficulty and anxiety. There is the more reason, therefore, to welcome Albulactin, a scientific food based on the fact now recognised, that the nutritive powers of milk do not depend entirely on the casein it contains, but also on another nutritive element—*i.e.*, milk-albumin. This element is present in human milk in a proportion three times as great as in cows' milk, while cows' milk is three times richer in casein than human milk. It follows, therefore, that if cows' milk is so diluted that the casein is in the right proportion, its milk-albumin is so reduced as to be almost negligible, therefore the particular element which nature designs for the nutriment of the human infant is almost entirely eliminated. Further, Albulactin not only forms very fine, soft curds, but it has the same effect upon diluted cows' milk, and it also stimulates the digestive functions to their full power. In Albulactin, therefore, we have a most remarkable substitute food for mothers' milk of proved value. It is manufactured by Messrs. A. Wulff & Co. (the manufacturers of Sanatogen), 12, Chancery Street, London, W.C.

## OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

### MEETING OF THE GERMAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION AT DRESDEN, 5TH TO 7TH OCTOBER, 1911.

The meeting of the German Nurses' Association at the International Exposition for Hygiene, of Dresden, from 5th to 7th October, was successful. Nearly two hundred nurses from all Germany met in the Royal Belvedere Restaurant, Brühl'sche Terasse, in the evening of the 5th. Old friends were happy to see one another again, and new friendships were formed. The Nurses' Group of Sachsen bade welcome to the Nurses' Association. Addresses of welcome from the Groups of Württemberg and Baden, and of various Women's Associations were held. Sister Karll spoke of the expectations, combined with this first national meeting of the German Nurses' Association.

#### THE HOSPITAL NURSE OF OUR DAY AND IN THE FUTURE.

In the morning of the 6th, two reports were read. Sister Charlotte von Caemmerer reported on "The Hospital Nurse of Our Day and in the Future." The organisation in German hospitals differs very much, but there are two inconveniences to be found in all the various hospitals: the professional education is too short, and the daily hours of duty are too long. The State only requires one year of professional education for nurses, concluding with the State examination. Hospitals don't care much about the education of probationers. The nurse does not pay for the education, and the hospitals overstrain the young girls with household work, and responsible nursing they are not fit for, instead of training them theoretically and practically. The probationers seldom get education in special work, and, after leaving the hospital, they are very insufficiently furnished for the nursing vocation in public life. The Nurses' Association requires to get two and three years of education. In some hospitals the examination is fixed at the end of the second year, but a regular plan for education, extended over two years, has not yet been made.

The daily hours of duty in German hospitals amount to 11—13½ hours. In various hospitals half-night duty is done by day nurses, so that 18½ hours of duty are required once or twice weekly. The hospital nurse is better situated than the nurse in clinic and private work, where 13 to 15 hours of duty are ordinarily demanded, and where in extraordinary cases 30 to 40 hours of duty (without an hour off) are often required. The night service is very badly regulated in German clinics. The day nurses are called for very often during the night. Last year the Regierungspräsident of Potsdam required ten hours of duty for nurses, but the reporter pleaded earnestly for the eight hours' system for hospital nurses, as it has been got in several American and Australian hospitals. Since Australian women have got the vote, they have a better position in public life. Sister Charlotte von Caemmerer hopes to see in future German nurses better interested in votes for women.

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