

PRACTICAL POINTS.

Hospital
Equipment.

Miss M. E. McCalmont, a trained nurse who is specialising as a hospital specialist and consultant in the United States, has a wonderfully interesting article on "Hospital Equipment" in the current issue of *The Canadian Nurse*, in which she points out that the question of hospital equipment is also a question of hospital economy. That to have simple but adequate equipment means less labour, less confusion, and less waste. To have a standardised equipment means a considerable saving in the initial and subsequent cost. Miss McCalmont advocates the formation of a committee on equipment, including without fail the Superintendent and Superintendent of Nurses. Then, she considers that they should select the most desirable articles of furniture from trade catalogues, the doctors being consulted upon such articles as they are directly interested in. The illustrations decided upon should be cut out and pasted into a book (with the necessary information) to be kept on file in the Superintendent's office, and known as the future standard of furniture for the hospital. Any person desirous of furnishing a ward, or part of a ward, should be referred to the Superintendent's special catalogue. If all equipment were purchased or donated accordingly it would only be a few years before the hospital would find itself furnished with uniform modern equipment.

The article gives a number of illustrations of desirable furniture. A table for the use of two patients with a division down the middle, giving each patient his undisturbed section, a medicine cupboard with a side compartment designed for poisons, of which the head nurse only has the key, &c.

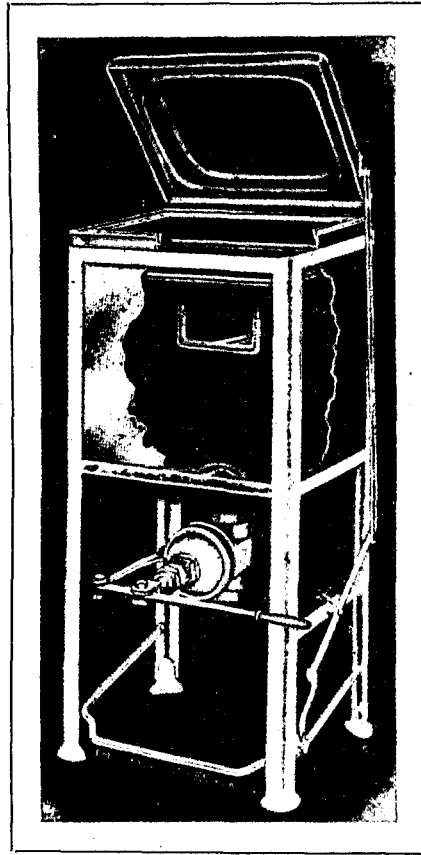
We reproduce Fig. V., which shows a good model of a bed-pan and fecal steriliser for typhoid cases. It sterilises the contents of the pan in the steam chamber underneath the sterilising chamber, as well as thoroughly washing and sterilising the pan. It is adaptable to the washing, and sterilising of urinals as well.

Disinfection of
the Mouth.

A correspondent writes:—As a layman who has unfortunately been obliged to remain for long periods under the care of doctors and nurses, I was very much struck by the following passage which I came across in a recent book on disinfection. The author, who is discussing the antiseptic precautions to be taken by surgeons and nurses previous to an operation, writes: "Very little attention is usually paid to the cleansing of the mouth, yet when it is remembered that the saliva contains a larger

number of micro-organisms than the worst sewage, that streptococci and staphylococci are amongst the most numerous of these, and that they are proved to pass into the air in loud talking or coughing, it would appear worth the surgeon's while to take into account a cavity which comes so near the operation wound." He goes on to state that direct experiment proves that five minutes' gargling with chlorine water, 2 per cent. solution of permanganate of potash, or 1 per cent. izar will reduce the number of organisms in the saliva for more than an hour to something like 6 per cent. of their original number.

It occurs to me that the Medical Officers and Nurses of fever hospitals who pass from one kind of infectious case to another might also practice oral disinfection with advantage. One hears of elaborate precautions to prevent mixed infections, and the cleansing of the mouth of the patient's attendants would seem to be a necessary feature of the scheme.



BED-PAN AND FECAL STERILISER.

Another Method
of Removal of
Adhesive Plaster.

E. J. G. Beardsley, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, mentions the difficulty often experienced and the pain and discomfort to the patient, in the removal of adhesive plaster, especially over hairy parts. He accidentally discovered that oil of wintergreen, applied directly to the plaster, spreads throughout the adhesive material and causes it to come away readily and painlessly. When extensive areas are to be removed the application of an ointment of adepslanæ hydrosus, with 10 per cent. of oil of wintergreen incorporated, is even more useful than the oil alone.

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