

were shown, also some showing the method employed to record cases occurring in the schools.

At the conclusion, Dr. Brincker kindly answered several questions, thereby adding to the indebtedness of his audience.

R. B. D.

PRACTICAL POINTS.

A Non-Commercial Exhibit.

In an interesting account, given by the *International Hospital Record*, of the non-commercial exhibit of the American Hospitals Association, held recently in New York, we read: There was a very marked degree of interest in the non-commercial exhibit held throughout the sessions of the convention, and Miss Aiken and those who assisted her in this work were accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

Invalid Occupations.

A very complete and most interesting exhibit, demonstrating an amazingly large field of invalid occupations, came from the Adams Nervine Asylum, of Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, in charge of Miss S. E. Tracy, who is responsible for the wonderful development of this so long neglected subject. All superintendents of training schools would do well to investigate this subject, with a view of including a course in the training of their nurses. The useful entertainment of the sick and invalided of all ages has been worked out on a cost basis varying from innumerable articles manufactured literally out of the waste basket, but which could scarcely be recognized in the finished and wonderful combinations that have been so cleverly devised—to a line of articles, both artistic and of moderate cost. Miss Tracy has published a book, describing this work in detail.

The Destruction of Hospital Property.

Possibly the exhibit which appealed most strongly to the many who could not pass it by hastily, because of its originality and practicability, came from the Hartford Hospital, Hartford, Conn.

It was a collection of articles illustrating the destruction of hospital property. These articles were used as an object lesson to nurses in the training school, and are kept in constant sight in the class room, neatly arranged and labelled. Other training school superintendents might be glad to follow the example of this most practical and enterprising superintendent from Hartford, and for their benefit we enumerate the collection.

1. Flannel ruined by boiling and rinsing in cold water.
2. Effect of hot water bag being put on glass table top.

3. Splashing apron with L abarraque solution.
4. Metal coffee pot directly over gas flame.
5. Wet soap on a polished surface.
6. Alcohol on a polished surface.
7. Drop light, 16 c.p., coming in contact with mirror.

Care of the Teeth and Mouth during Illness.

"A frequent cause of the decay of teeth is neglect during acute illness," says the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. "It is astonishing to what degree the mouths of patients are neglected, a neglect which contributes in part, at least, to the accumulation of the thick, dry coat on the tongue, and the thick, sticky, offensive masses of so-called sordes on the gums and between the teeth.

"When the patient is in bed, is fed chiefly on soft foods, and is not allowed to talk, there is greater need than during health of systematic care of the mouth. The condition of the patient's mouth is an indication of the capability of the nurse. Frequent wiping of the teeth, gums and tongue with a piece of cotton held in a pair of forceps and saturated with an alkaline solution containing twenty per cent. of glycerine, will contribute greatly to the comfort and welfare of the patient.

"The greater the illness, the higher the temperature, the more abnormal the condition, the greater is the necessity of giving careful attention to the mouth. The mouth should be rinsed several times a day with warm water, to which has been added a little common salt, tincture of myrrh, or Cologne water, to stimulate the secretions. When there is a tendency of the gums or lips to bleed, they should be rubbed twice a day with a soft cloth bearing powdered boric acid; if patients are partially unconscious, the mouth should be examined several times a day. Ulcers should be treated with boric acid or a saturated solution of potassium chlorate or peroxid of hydrogen on a swab. If the patient sleeps with his mouth open, the tongue should be moistened frequently with a twenty-per-cent solution of glycerin and water. A drink of water should be offered the patient at least once an hour, and if he can take but a sip at a time, it should be offered more frequently."

Open-Air Schools.

An attempt to start an "open-air school" in each section of the city will be made by the Chicago Health Department, acting in conjunction with the Board of Education. According to present plans, these schools, or "open-air" rooms, may be established in every ward school of the city, so that children affected with tuberculosis may be taught amid an abundant supply of cold, fresh air. At present five schools of this sort are being operated by the Health Department. Dr. Herman Spalding says: "The only way tuberculous children can be properly cared for and cured is by having an 'open-air' room in every ward school."

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