

from hearing the lecture. At length, one of the studious front benchers interrupted the lecturer with the polite request: "Pray, Mr. Lawrence, would you mind asking those gentlemen in the gallery to make less noise?" "Gentlemen?" replied the imperturbable Lawrence, looking round the gallery, "Gentlemen? really, I don't see any."

In spite of Savory's integrity in the matter of not interfering with other people's dissections, there was a weak point in his general moral rectitude. His fingers literally itched when he caught sight of a pectoralis major. "Ah! Mr. Savory," said Edye, one day in the anatomy rooms, "there's one thing you can't resist; you never can resist a pectoralis major." "No," replied Savory, "you are right, I'd get up in the middle of the night to dissect a pectoralis major."

The article concludes: "Unfortunately for the present chronicles, Dr. Edye saw little of the inside of the wards of the hospital. The surgery of that period was distinctly limited, and consisted mainly of amputations and of operations for stone. In the absence of anæsthetics, speed was everything. The main artery of an amputation stump was tied by the officiating surgeon, whilst the dressers secured and ligatured the smaller vessels. Washing the hands previous to the operation was entirely optional. Everybody washed well after the operation had been completed, and a few faddists washed beforehand. Tincture of opium was sometimes given before the patient left the ward, but operations were always performed behind double doors, and in the most outlying part of the building. Two forms of dressing were in common use—lint spread with lard, and lint spread with unguentum resinæ. The operation wound was exposed at the end of twenty-four hours, and if there were no signs of irritation around the sutures the dressings were reapplied. If, on the other hand, signs of inflammation were visible, the wound was opened up and the character of the pus carefully noted. The subsequent appearance of even a cupful of "laudable pus" did not disturb the tranquillity of mind of the operator. A poultice was applied, and an encouraging prognosis given. If, however, the pus had a greenish appearance, or was streaked with blood, the surgeon shook his head, ordered a bigger poultice, and proceeded with the next dressing.

"Such was the state of surgery when Dr. Edye left Bartholomew's in 1859. Since then he has not returned; but, nevertheless, some changes have been effected. The poultice has disappeared from the surgical wards, laudable pus has lost its good character, and the double doors of the theatres are merely regarded as a convenience in preserving a desirable temperature within. The sisters of the wards no longer take snuff in public, and the surgeons wash both before and after operations. Yet, in spite of the change that time has brought, there lingers a fascination about those early days which even the knowledge of their manifest disadvantages fails to destroy."

THINGS NURSES SHOULD KNOW.

Nurses are usually supposed to know everything that concerns the welfare of their patients, to be able to procure at the shortest notice things ordered by the medical attendant or needed for the comfort of the sick person. We wonder if they always realise what a mine of valuable information the advertisement columns of this journal afford them if they are carefully studied. Within the space between its covers are gathered together in most convenient form the announcements of firms of world-wide reputation, and if they are unable to call at the establishment concerned, a letter or postcard will bring them the information desired by return of post. To mention a few

SURGICAL APPLIANCES AND NURSING REQUISITES.

MESSRS. DOWN BROS., LTD., 21, St. Thomas Street, S.E. The surgical appliances supplied by Messrs. Down Bros. have become a household word for excellence, and nurses requiring instruments and appliances, from operating tables to thermometers, will find them at 21, St. Thomas Street in great variety. A speciality of Messrs. Down's is the Bardella bandage, which is frequently ordered by the medical profession as a dressing for burns, scalds and skin injuries. School nurses and district nurses should not fail to include "Bardella" in their outfit on their daily rounds, and it should have a place in every household in the first-aid cupboard.

MESSRS. GARROULD, 150-162, Edgware Road, W.—Messrs. Garrould need no introduction to nurses, to whose convenience they have always given great consideration. Just now winter cloaks are a subject occupying the thoughts of many nurses, and they will find them in great variety in Messrs. Garrould's Nurses' Saloon. A delightful box just brought out, 13½ inches long and 8 inches wide, is designed for the use of nurses who desire to carry cap, apron, collars and cuffs with them to a case. The incredibly low price is 1s. The patent fastening is both simple and convenient. Accident emergency cases from 5s. upwards are also most conveniently designed, and nurses should call or write for Messrs. Garrould's Red Cross Catalogue.

THE MEDICAL SUPPLY ASSOCIATION.—Nothing succeeds like success, and in the case of the Medical Supply Association this is proved by the fact that the former premises have proved quite inadequate for the increasing business, and the firm has moved into convenient and commodious new premises at 167-173, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. Here goods can be displayed to greater advantage, and the establishment is well worth a visit. We noticed on a recent visit a particularly attractive baby's bath which maternity nurses will do well to note, hot water bags in great variety, and a light and comfortable bed rest with slightly curved back.

previous page

next page