

locality, and, of course, the nature of the cases nursed.

The Ward Sister should alone be responsible for the giving out of clean linen, and also for the counting of same for the wash.

It is a great temptation to have one's ward always smart and clean, but when the articles washed are counted in hundreds, one can well realise the limitations insisted upon by the authorities.

Sheets may, if made large enough to double at the bottom, have a "clean end" in reserve. Quilts can be so carefully taken off when stripping the beds for making that they do not become creased or tumbled in appearance.

*Cleaning Materials.*—This does not apply to soft soap, soda, &c., which are sent up in the same amount weekly, but to the odds and ends the nurse calls in to help her in cleaning, such as methylated spirits, turpentine, lint, olive oil, &c. Each ardent probationer has her pet "mixture," regardless of its cost!

The fault lies in the fact that she does not even know the cost of these things, and there seems no one to inform her.

*Surgical Dressings and Lotions.*—One of the most important of extravagant items in a ward. A list of prices ought to be placed in every dressing cupboard, and a report of the amount used sent to the ward at the end of every quarter.

*Drugs.*—When medicines are changed, the old bottles, with even one dose, should be returned to the dispensary department. Powders and pills, which only keep fresh for a limited time, should be "called" frequently, and in small quantities.

These are only a few of the most important predisposing articles to admit of waste, and apply only to a ward or special department.

To enter into the forms of waste in an institution is not easy in a short article. Some of the principal avenues have already been referred to in connection with ward management. The question naturally arises: What is the radical cure?

There can only be one answer:—Teach those in authority, in a systematic and thorough way, what they learn in nineteen cases out of twenty by the painful process of experience.

#### HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss Hannah Scott, Mrs. F. Dickson, Miss G. Blundell, Miss P. Jackson, Miss M. Randall, Miss Macintyre, Miss M. Spencer, and Miss O'Brien.

Miss Gertrude Blundell writes:—Old blankets which are condemned as useless for large beds can often be cut down to make cot

blankets of, or made into flannels for fomentations, or for washing patients. All waste water pipes if out of order, or leakages from any source, should be seen to immediately, the cause found out, and rectified.

Many pounds a year can be saved by constant watchfulness in such small matters.

Mrs. F. Dickson states that "the great principle underlying hospital economy is that each article used shall be applied to its legitimate purpose. Amongst the ways of ensuring economy in bed linen she enumerates the careful feeding of helpless patients, the supplying of children with feeders which will protect both bedgowns and sheets, and careful and neat bed making, so that the bed linen shall be crushed as little as possible."

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What are the dangers (a) to the mother, (b) to the child, in a case where there is a purulent vaginal discharge at the commencement of labour?

### THE PREMIER AND STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The Prime Minister has expressed his willingness to receive the Deputation from the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses at the House of Commons on Monday, April 28th, at 4 p.m. The Deputation will be composed of representatives of the affiliated societies, and of other important organisations.

#### AN ECONOMIC STRUGGLE.

The Nurses' Registration Bill is to be actively opposed by the officials of the London Hospital, as usual—and Mr. Harry Lawson, son of the proprietor of the *Daily Telegraph*, who is on the London Hospital Committee, is Mr. Holland's spokesman in the House of Commons. He will this session, as he did last, put down a motion for the rejection of the Bill!

As the *Times* naïvely states in referring to this interested opposition:—"The Bill proposes a longer term of qualification for registration than is customary at the London Hospital." If the *Daily Telegraph* would inform the public what was the profit on last year's Private Nursing Business in connection with this hospital, made largely by short term training, it would be an eye-opener to a Government which professes to deprecate the sweater and all his evil deeds, and which also professes to be interested in efficient education. Anyway, millionaire masters of industry like

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