

groin. But if soft chancre is efficiently treated from the outset these sequelæ should not appear, and it should be cured in about eight weeks. A nurse attending such a case should be just as careful about disinfecting, or burning, linen soiled by discharge as she would be in a case of syphilis. If there is a "bubo" requiring surgical treatment she will, of course, see that no infectious material is thrown carelessly away, but will burn all that can be burnt, and carefully boil for ten minutes any instrument used by the surgeon, also his rubber gloves, before allowing them to be replaced in his bag.

Any nurse contemplating nursing venereal diseases should procure, and study, "Morality and Hygiene," by Miss L. L. Dock. Knowledge is protection!

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss A. D. Fairbank, Miss D. James, Miss Macfarlane, and Miss M. O'Brien. Only a limited number of the papers sent in showed an adequate knowledge of the subject, which is evidently one concerning which more explicit teaching should be given in the training schools.

Miss Fairbank states that every precaution must be taken to ensure that the patient does not scratch, rub, or touch even, any sores which he may have, because he may infect other organs by conveying pus from one part to the other. A very satisfactory way of dealing with utensils is, she states, to keep a small zinc bath for this purpose, and if this is done, they can be boiled in it after use.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

How would you nurse a case of tracheotomy, and what is your practice in regard to the care of instruments and tracheotomy tubes in these cases?

SAN FRANCISCO, 1915.

Do you realise, internationalists, that 1915 is the year after next, and that it will be here in no time? Evidently the San Francisco Exposition Managers are alive to the fact, as already we are receiving interesting advances concerning their projects. One paragraph states:—The Panama-Pacific International Exposition will be a fifty-million dollar enterprise. In the matter of site, exhibits, and artistic conception it will be vastly greater than any World's Fair that has been held elsewhere. Here in a week can be studied the world's progress as it could not be in a year of travel. But we must defer till next week telling you of all the wonderful arrangements in train for your astonishment and delight.

A HISTORY OF NURSING.*

II.

THE GROWTH OF NURSING IN THE UNITED STATES.

In the chapter on the growth of nursing in the United States Miss Dock tells a story of extreme interest. In a former volume we have the history of the foundation of the first training schools; the present volume tells how, after the success of training schools had been proved, the pioneer institutions were called upon to send their graduates far and wide to initiate similar methods.

The work of reconstruction in the hospitals was taken up and carried to success in by far the majority of instances by volunteer training school committees, composed largely or entirely of women, who over and over again pushed their way in the face of opposition and disbelief.

In some instances they were dismissed with thanks by hospital directors as soon as their work was running smoothly with value proved.

The pioneer nurses had to contend with almost incredible conditions. "They found dirt and disorder to be almost universal. Vermin and infection were common, even in pretentious buildings. Immorality was frequent. Coarseness and vulgarity they often met, and went well armed with moral force and intrepidity. Extraordinary customs and conditions existed. In one beautiful and wealthy hospital, the morgue table was used for operations, though Lister had announced his theories. In another, all the small rooms built for special free cases were filled with the mistresses of the city board of aldermen." Nurses' working hours were from four in the morning until ten at night, and it is small wonder that "the trained women who plunged into this public house cleaning were so absorbed in it that to them, for a time, the outer world ceased to exist. . . . When order had been restored and time came for constructive work, they with one accord, the country over, took up the problem of giving their pupils ampler teaching, and a more careful preparation than they themselves had had. It may be confidently asserted that never in a modern country has a more disinterested and useful civic service been performed by women than this regeneration of hospitals by women's boards and nurses during the last three decades of the nineteenth century. In all estimates of the value of skilled nursing by women of education, only half the subject is considered if the immense moral uplift that they

* Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 24, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)