

## THE DUBLIN CIVIC EXHIBITION.

### THE NURSING EXHIBIT.

Among the many interesting sections of the Civic Exhibition at Dublin is that under the management of the Irish Nurses' Association.

This section consists of two rooms, furnished as up-to-date Hospital Wards, one a surgical, the other a maternity ward.

On entering the wards the visitor first sees a white enamel cot containing the figure of a child, with "an extension" fitted on. Next are two of the "Nesbit-Evans" patent hospital beds, the first a "Patent Easy Wheeling bed," which can be instantaneously wheeled away and rendered rigid, the second a combined medical and surgical bed with pulley attached. Across one of these beds is a bed table of polished wood with glass top. This table, which can be easily wheeled up to the patient when required, has a daintily laid tray for the patient's tea.

Each bed has a screen, hung with green casement cloth, which can be easily removed and washed.

Other exhibits which may be studied with interest include an armchair with a sliding back, which can change it to a reclining couch, a glass-topped dressing wagon equipped with the latest white-enamelled steriliser, bowls and trays, &c., and a large white "Poison Cupboard" with glass sides, door and shelves.

On a table in the centre of the room is a display of splints, and an "Eye Tray" furnished with the most up-to-date appliances.

When leaving the ward one may see a cheerful looking little figure sitting up in a green cot with brass fittings. This is the convalescent patient.

Among the Exhibits in the Maternity Section is a Baby's Toilet tray. The tray is of enamelled iron holding a tiny bowl, a bottle of boric lotion for the eyes, and four little boxes with covers, one for wool swabs, another holds umbilical dressings, a third powder, and the fourth sewing materials—a very neat and easily kept clean equipment for hospital use when each pupil midwife should have her own supplies.

There is also a maternity bedstead as used in the Rotunda Hospital, which is so arranged that by simply turning a handle at the side of the bed the wire mattress can be raised gradually to the desired height. The patient thus comfortably rests in a reclining position while drainage is promoted.

A child's crib shown by Nesbit-Evans & Co., Birmingham, has a device by which the sides are fixed when in position so as to prevent the child moving them, and when they are dropped they slope under the crib, thus making a great improvement which will be much appreciated by nurses.

A Thermos Saline Infusion apparatus, supplied by the Holborn Instrument Co., is also on view, the working of which, several nurses tell us, is both simple and effectual.

An arrangement for screens is very simple, a

rope wire being attached to the walls, and dainty curtains hung on by means of brass hooks about a foot in length, so that nurses of any stature can easily move them.

The thanks of the Association are due to all the hospitals and firms who so kindly lent the various exhibits; also to those ladies who by their gifts of flowers helped to make the wards bright and cheerful.

## ROYAL COMMISSION ON VENEREAL DISEASES.

At the forty-sixth meeting of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases evidence was given by Dr. Svend Lomholt, Surgeon at the Municipal Hospital at Copenhagen, regarding the methods adopted for dealing with venereal diseases in Denmark.

The principle has been to provide free treatment and to render it as easily accessible as possible. As early as 1773 a rescript provided for free treatment of all poor persons suffering from venereal diseases in one of the provinces of Denmark, and similar regulations were made from time to time until by an Act of 1874 it was laid down that every person should be entitled to free treatment for venereal disease without regard to his ability to pay.

In reality little was done to make this right to free treatment of practical value until 1906, when an Act was passed which contained a provision compelling the municipalities to arrange easy access for free consultation and treatment for all persons suffering from venereal disease.

Since that date, especially in Copenhagen, in which town probably 80 per cent. of the disease occurring in the country is to be found, a great deal has been done. Very complete hospital facilities have been provided, and in addition there are three public consulting rooms for contagious and venereal diseases at one of which evening consultations are held.

Twelve municipal doctors (two of whom are women) have also been appointed for the purpose of giving free treatment of venereal diseases.

The experience has been that patients have shown themselves very ready to take advantage of these facilities.

In some directions compulsory measures have been adopted. A doctor treating a case of venereal disease is required to point out all the consequences of the disease, and there is also provision for securing that persons suffering from venereal disease shall continue their treatment. Dr. Lomholt thought that this latter provision had been very useful.

A system of confidential notification of venereal diseases is in force. The names and addresses of the patients are not notified, and the cases are identified only by numbers, and the notification is consequently only of use for statistical purposes. Dr. Lomholt has made a critical examination

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