

Here also the weak places are taken out of the yarn by an ingenious bobbin winder.

In a third mill Southalls' Sanitary Towels, hospital pads, and accouchement necessaries are made from materials manufactured in the other mills. This factory is on one floor, and a large number of girls are employed under the supervision of Miss E. A. Hill, a trained nurse, to whose guidance we were handed over.

Here deft-fingered girls in clean caps and aprons, supplied by the firm, were busily at work. The long, sausage-shaped cylinders covered with gauze, which we had seen filled with wool were quickly cut by a guillotine into the required lengths and loops were sewn on with a sewing machine. Others were quickly packing the accouchement sets, for which Messrs. Southall are famous, which have been designed after consultation with obstetricians and trained nurses. The sets vary in price from 10s. 6d. to £5 5s. These are not only most convenient, but can be relied upon as being thoroughly aseptic. Other useful specialities are the compressed towels, which are reduced by pressure into so small a compass that they can be packed in tiny boxes 2 in. long and yet, when opened, resume their shape and elasticity. Southalls' Day or Night Tidy for ladies, made in nainsook with a waterproof lining, and which can be worn with any sized towel in the same way as an infant's pilch, and Southalls' Sanitary Knickers, must be a boon particularly in hot countries. Another useful speciality is the protective apron, the outcome of much thought and experience, for use with Southalls' Sanitary Towels.

The Accouchement Sheets have only to be seen to be appreciated.

The Infants' Knapkettes were used in the Nursery of H.M. the Queen, and these also can be had in compressed form.

Many were the appreciative remarks heard from the visitors; thus: "We have had a splendid time; it is really important that we should know in what sort of a place our surgical dressings are made. I like the hygienic appearance of the workrooms and the cleanliness of the girls." Others admired the dainty dressings, wools, gauzes, and swabs, and no maternity nurse could fail to appreciate the convenience of the accouchement requisites. The whole works, as one visitor remarked, were an education.

The time passed far too quickly for us to see nearly all there was of interest, but, as we were once again packed into the motors placed at our disposal we realised, as never before, that the nurse and the manufacturer must work on terms of close intimacy if the best results of the work of both are to be attained.

M. B.

Nurses should note that Dr. Ridge's Patent Cooked Food (Royal Food Mills, London, N.) has achieved a world-wide reputation as an easily digested preparation. It is very acceptable to many invalids.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON VENEREAL DISEASES.

At the forty-second meeting of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases evidence was given by Professor Blaschko of Berlin, Honorary Secretary of the German Society for combating venereal diseases.

Professor Blaschko reviewed the statistics relating to venereal diseases in Germany and other countries. Comparing England and Germany he thought that, though the English Army figures were much higher than those of the German Army, prevalence of the disease was probably greater in Germany. This he attributed to the fact that conditions of life were better in England; at any rate temptation was far greater in Germany than in English towns of the same size.

The question whether venereal diseases in Germany were increasing was, he said, a difficult one to answer. During the last forty years Germany had been changed from an agricultural nation into an industrial state with many great towns. In view of the fact that the prevalence of venereal diseases increased with the size of a town, it might have been expected that the prevalence would have increased.

Trustworthy statistics over a long period did not exist, but the returns relating to German recruits in the last ten years showed that an augmentation was not probable. Professor Blaschko concluded therefore that some favourable influences had been acting and he thought that the work of the German Society had played an important part. This Society was constituted in 1902, and its main objects might be stated to be:—

1. The enlightenment of the public on the ravages of venereal diseases and the necessity of combating them.
2. The scientific discussion of all problems connected with the combating of the diseases.
3. The keeping in touch with legislative and administrative bodies and the proposing of reforms in the law and administration.

The committees of the Society were representative of all classes, including educationalists, insurance bodies, physicians, lawyers, public officials, merchants, members of Parliament, and all well-known women. There were branches of the Society in nearly all large German towns, and it was through these branches that the principal part of the work was done. These branches organised public meetings and lectures at which discussion might be permitted. The Society had a large number of wax figures, diagrams, drawings, and lantern slides, and these were lent for the purposes of exhibition. Representations of Brieux's drama "Les Avariés" (Damaged Goods) had also been organised, and most of the local branches had supported the representation. In Berlin alone, this play had been performed more than one hundred times at seven theatres.

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