

It was suggested that if the boots were supplied a size too large the evil would be mitigated. Wider trenches would be an advantage so that men could walk about; and young soldiers should be warned of the danger of warming their feet at the fire when suffering from frost bite. The Japanese are past masters in the care of the health of their soldiers, and have reduced mortality from this cause. No doubt they have printed rules on this point. Let us have them.

"A Call to the Wives and Mothers of Our Soldiers" is the title of an eloquent and earnest article contributed by the Hon. Albinia Brodrick to *The Clarion* of January 1st. It is a powerful plea that our sick and wounded soldiers shall not be subjected to unskilled nursing. After narrating definite instances Miss Brodrick writes, "Wives and mothers of our men, if you do not speak out and make yourselves heard and felt you are most guilty towards those you love best. . . . Tell the Red Cross, tell the Army Council that we will not have such things, such shameful things done."

PRACTICAL POINTS.

To Silence Window Sash.

Window sashes that jerk and scream when moved, to the distress of patient and nurse, should have the sash-cords and grooves rubbed over with a dry cake of stove black-lead. This will ensure smooth and noiseless running to the most recalcitrant window sash.

To Retain Heat.

The water in hot water bottles will retain the heat considerably longer if a handful of soda or common salt be added to the water before boiling, as this raises the boiling-point by increasing the density of the water. The same water may be used repeatedly by re-heating it in a saucepan or enamelled basin. For use in rubber bottles, salt is preferable. Such an addition to water causes it to boil over if closely covered.

PRIVATE NURSING HOMES.

The very high fees charged by a few Home Hospitals—securely supported by leading Surgeons has caused a revulsion of feeling upon the part of the public in their attitude towards proprietary Nursing Homes, and there is much clamour at present to organize through co-operation—a system of private hospitals for the middle classes who can only afford moderate fees. This is quite permissible of course—usually large institutions can be run more cheaply than small ones; and it has yet to be proved that company management can provide at a less cost, the same high-class nursing which is given in many proprietary nursing Homes. We all know what it costs an invalid to be laid up and nursed in a good hotel, but the public have it so securely fixed in their brain, that nursing is merely a cheap domestic avocation—instead of an expensive skilled human treatment, that it will be very interesting to watch and report on the cost of

running the co-operative Home Hospitals. Fitzroy House founded to provide the middle classes with cheap hospital and nursing treatment in sickness, has never been able to show a balance sheet proving that such treatment can be given at really moderate cost. So we opine that if there is an ample supply of nurses, for day and night duty, and they are properly paid—and up-to-date medical science and nursing is supplied, the suggestion that a Home can pay its way on a charge of £3 3s. or £4 4s. a week, will prove inaccurate. In London it cannot be done.

We are sorry to learn that many Superintendents of Nursing Homes are finding their work very adversely affected by the War. Everything in the medical world is quiet, and the care of sick officers, for which well-managed homes are excellently equipped, is to a great extent absorbed by ladies of leisure, regardless of their lack of qualifications for the task, some inspired by patriotic motives, and others who only crave for the latest fashionable excitement, the care of sick and wounded.

PRIZES FOR NURSES.

The Annual Christmas meeting of the Managers and staff at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, at which Sir Matthew Arthur, Bart., presided, was a very enjoyable function. The prizes won by the nurses during the year were afterwards presented. *Medical Nursing*: Nurse Edith D. Altham (March), Nurse Mary J. Peebles (October). *Surgical Nursing*: Nurse Margaret H. Russell (March), Nurse Mary J. Peebles (October). *The Florence Nightingale, Western Infirmary, Prize*: Nurse Margaret H. Russell.

IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Miss Carson Rae has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Irish Nurses' Association Nursing Corps under St. John Ambulance Association.

At the Central Executive Committee of St. John Ambulance, the following Resolution was passed:—

"Certified trained hospital nurses, in the active execution of their profession, are now eligible for election as members of Brigade Nursing Corps and Divisions, without being required to obtain the First Aid Certificates, and so long as they continue in the service of their profession will be exempt from annual re-examination."

Any fully-trained nurses who are members of the I.N.A., and who desire to join the Nursing Corps, should apply to Mrs. Jeffers, Corps Secretary, 34, St. Stephens Green, Dublin.

S. JEFFERS, *Secretary*.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS.

The New Year's honours had nothing very inspiring about them, but we offer our congratulations to Sir T. Duncombe Mann, upon whom the King has bestowed a well earned Knighthood, who has been Clerk to the Metropolitan Asylums Board since 1891, and who is so well known for his courtesy to every member of the public with whom he comes in contact.

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