

NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF CHINA.

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HOSPITAL ECONOMIES AND PREVENTION OF WASTE.

Friday morning's papers were on very practical subjects. The first, on "Hospital Economies and Prevention of Waste," by Miss Booth, of Hankow, was a delight to the hearts of all the hospital housekeepers who listened. Miss Booth, in helpful detail, told just how, when and what to buy in kitchen commodities, fuel, linen, dressings, disinfectants, &c., and though location governs to some extent certain of these details, everyone found much that was helpful and suggestive. Next came "Nursing Requisites as Made on the Native Street." Miss Sawyer, of Tehchow, had this topic, and had prepared an exhibit of articles or their photos. A lively hour was spent in which many members shared, giving as they were called on descriptions, prices, and their personal experiences in making or buying the article under discussion. "Necessity is the mother of invention," especially in interior hospitals, where practical substitutes for expensive and impossible equipment must be had. This was one of the occasions when fifty-three heads contributed to the topic under discussion, and it could not but be an interesting and profitable hour for all.

HUMOUR AND PATHOS OF NURSING IN CHINA.

After tiffin, the party secured rickshas and set off for the Temple of Heaven, where the afternoon session was held. As one listened to the devotional service and the address that followed, one forgot that this spot, so rich in the beauties of nature, was steeped in centuries of heathen rites and adoration. Miss Clark (of Shanghai) opened the meeting with a paper on "Humour and Pathos in Nursing in China." The writer chose to turn the tables, and tell of the pathos first, hoping that the happier memories might linger. First, of the horrors of child labour. There is abundant child labour in China everywhere, but it is at its worst in the treaty ports. Child labour in the factories is far more to be deplored than that which takes them out into the sun and air. The accident cases among these mites from machinery are a disgrace to civilization. Then, from the social customs, arises much pathos. A patient suffering from inoperable cancer is doomed to live apart from husband and children—a veritable outcast, though wealthy. Small wonder she begs for something to make her sleep for ever. A girl of thirteen is brought in frightfully mutilated. Her baby is born soon, happily dead; and the child-mother soon follows. A baby slave-girl is beaten so cruelly that paralysis results. Here Miss Clark paid a grateful tribute to the Shanghai Municipal Police, who always champion the children's cause. Space will not permit the repeating of the tales told of that universal curse—the white slave traffic—rife in the port cities; or of the suffering of the ricksha coolies; or of the unknown thousands of suffering women who have no chance to lay down

the cares of home and children and come to hospital for treatment, even if grandmother, neighbours, husband, and countless other factors approved of Western methods, which is doubtful. To the humorous side, for there is one! From the husband who dissolved in tears that his wife must remain in hospital for two weeks, because there was no one left to take care of him! to the mites who came to the dispensary one day, and on being asked what was their sickness, replied, "We are not sick; we have come to see the fun!" A child of a hospital worker is suddenly seized with convulsions and hurried to hospital. On undressing the baby, we find such a pretty suit of underwear made from pink boracic lint! But, perhaps to the hospital housekeeper that was not funny! Obedience is what we all strive for in our schools. There was an instance of it recently, when one of the doctors sent a nurse to wash his hands after touching some pusta-stained wool, instructing him to "continue washing until I come for you." Other duties cropped up, and the nurse was forgotten till some time later the doctor had occasion to return, and the lad was still washing his hands!

THE EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Tippett (of Pingyangfu), then gave a forceful talk on "The Evangelistic Opportunities of the Superintendent." Many were the interesting sketches which she gave of missionary work in the interior—the work so nearly like that of the Master—healing and teaching, the two mingling as part of the daily life. "Do not regard your patients as cases only, but as souls. Keep your spiritual standard high. Yours will measure that of your hospital. Your in-patients are more important than your out-patients, because you have more opportunity to reach them with daily personal touch. Keep close to God yourself by daily communion, else you will fall miserably. Learn to conquer yourself, ere you can hope to control or lead others." But a part of this impassioned appeal can be given. It was followed by a quick succession of earnest prayers that can but result in a higher standard of work for the coming year.

Business over, the nurses went across to the grounds of the Temple of Agriculture to enjoy a picnic supper, for the foreigners were not allowed to eat in the sacred precincts of the Temple of Heaven.

HOSPITAL SOCIAL SERVICE AND ITS POSSIBLE USE IN CHINA.

On Saturday morning, an interesting paper on "Hospital Social Service and Its Possible Use in China," by Miss Gage (of Changsha), was read. Room does not permit review of the comprehensive sketch of social service as it has been carried on in England and America in recent years; but many helpful suggestions were given as to its adaptations to our work in this land. "Must China wait all the tens of years which Western lands have waited for what has been proven an economic necessity

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