

or on a piece of paper, until its destruction can be effected. Damp swabs are preferable to dry, and should be wrung out in a disinfectant solution. Pocket-handkerchiefs, if used at all, must be boiled or steeped in a disinfectant solution before being washed.

As far as possible, avoid bringing into close proximity to the patient any articles in your equipment not actually required.

The overall, after being taken off, should be so folded as to avoid exposure of the inside lining, and hung up in the room at some distance from the patient. The nurse should then thoroughly wash her hands with soap and water, to which some of the disinfectant has been previously added.

N.B.—By the conscientious observation of the foregoing details, and of the principles underlying them, a nurse can reduce to a minimum the risk of conveying infection to her other patients.

HOME HELPS.

"Home Helps" are women having an adequate knowledge of domestic matters, who work under the direction of a Supervisor in connection with Health Agencies, District and Maternity Nurses, Infant Welfare Centres, and Schools for Mothers, or other local Agencies.

The special function of the Home Help is to render such services in the homes of the poor as would ordinarily be the duty of the mother of the family, to safeguard the home and the children, to assist in the care of aged or infirm persons, and generally to act under the supervision of the nurse, or other authorized agent dealing with the case.

SOLDIERS SUFFERING FROM NERVOUS SHOCK.

In the House of Lords on Monday the Earl of Lytton asked for information as to the hospital treatment of soldiers who have lost their reason through nervous shock.

Lord Newton said that "uncertifiables" were treated in the neurological sections of the military hospitals, of which there were twenty-three throughout the country. In addition, accommodation was available at two institutions which were formerly responsible to the Lunacy Board of Control. Neurological cases were divided into four classes—(1) cases of nerve injuries caused by wounds; (2) cases of men who were quite insane; (3) cases of a minor character; and (4) cases of epilepsy. There was special treatment in each of these cases. The War Office had no intention whatever of treating these unfortunate men as ordinary lunatics.

THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE.

ADDRESS

By MISS CLARA D. NOYES, R.N.,
President, National League of Nursing Education.

By the swift but sure flight of time, 1915 has arrived—a date destined to be weighted with deep significance to the entire world, and to which our nursing organizations—National and International—had looked forward with eager anticipation. We have come with a definite desire to see and to learn, for California has long been held like "Apples of gold in pictures of silver" in our imagination.

Our pleasure, nevertheless, is tinged with sadness and regret, for we had expected to meet with us at the International Congress of Nurses our sisters from foreign lands. Some of these sisters even now as I, in this peaceful land write, together with many of our own members under the banner of the Red Cross, are nursing the sick and wounded soldiers, and lending aid and assistance to the stricken people in a land laid waste by the most cruel and devastating war the world has ever known.

We, who teach our pupil nurses that all life, even when apparently the most degraded or the most fragile, is worthy of our most tender and sympathetic care, lest in that life the spark of some great and brilliant intellect may already be burning, cannot view this wholesale slaughter, even from a distance, without great anguish of mind. We are particularly sympathetic with our English sister nurses, for not only have they met with defeat year after year in their effort to secure proper registration laws, with the hope of correcting some of the crippling conditions existing in that country, but they have been further humiliated and belittled by seeing the unskilled and untrained lay worker from all grades of society quite generally made responsible for the nursing of the sick soldier in the present conflict.

We, who have viewed this extraordinary situation from afar, have rubbed our eyes and wondered if we have been sleeping and had dreamed that a Florence Nightingale some fifty years ago had risen to the rescue of the English soldier, and subsequently laid the foundation of modern nursing.

Let us not be too complacent, however, for although we are grateful for our splendid nursing organizations, our unity and solidarity, our registration laws—weak and feeble as some of them may be—our Red Cross Nursing Service, our Army and Navy Nurse Corps, our Department of Nursing and Health at

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