

# The Midwife.

## SOME HOSPITAL DEVICES AND PROCEDURES.

Miss Nancy E. Cadmus, R.N., contributes to *The American Journal of Nursing* a most interesting illustrated article on some hospital devices and procedures as used in the Manhattan Maternity and Dispensary, New York City. We reproduce:—

*A Double-faced black rubber bag* used in the cans (equivalent of a "rounder" in this country), by means of which the paper bags containing soiled materials are never handled by the porter, who places a clean rubber bag in the can as he removes the used one. When emptying the contents he permits the bag to turn wrong side out, after which it is subjected to a cleaning process and is next used with that side out.

Another device illustrated which Miss Cadmus says has furnished much relief from the smell of burnt rubber is a basket in which nipples, breast-shields, &c., are placed, after being cleansed, and are plunged in boiling water for three minutes. This basket is an ordinary strainer or egg basket, to which the engineer of the hospital attached legs made of galvanised tin. Miss Cadmus writes: "I consider this device a prize."

Ventilators in windows are other devices born of necessity. Because of the location of the windows

in the nursery ventilation without a draught on the babies was nearly an impossibility. These ventilators are made of galvanised tin, and consist of an air chamber inserted into an adjustable board, which rests in the window

under the lower sash. The chamber with an opening in the lower section is dropped back of the radiator, thus causing the introduced air to pass through the heated air from the coils of the radiator. The intake of air is controlled by a damper just inside the adjustable board, and an indirect ventilation is secured by the lapping of the two sashes of the window.

A useful suggestion in another illustration indicates a plan whereby walls about a sink are protected by white enamelled cloth curtains, bound with white tape, and suspended on small cup hooks inserted in a light bar of wood.

*A Near View of the Dressing Carriage* (p. 536).—This is an adaptation of that long in use by the Sloane Hospital for Women. The basin in the centre is for cotton sponges in a solution; the quart cup contains solution for irrigation, and the hydrometer jar carries the sponge holder in a solution.

A bag suspended from an S hook on a bar of the bed contains eighteen cotton sponges and six vulva pads, enough for three patients when dressings follow one after the other. These dressings are sterilized in the bag. A large pitcher (not shown in our illustration) contains an extra supply of solution to replenish when the quart cup is emptied. Each patient has her own sheet for draping kept in her bedside table and it is re-



REMOVABLE BAG USED TO RECEIVE PAPER BAGS FILLED WITH DRESSINGS AND SOILED DIAPERS.

peatedly used unless it becomes soiled.

The nurse rolls her sleeves above her elbows and thoroughly washes her hands with soap and warm running water but does not scrub or disinfect them. She cleanses the patient entirely by

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