

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

"SURGICAL NURSING AND TECHNIQUE."*

"Surgical Nursing and Technique," by Lieut.-Colonel Charles P. Childe, B.A., F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon to the Royal Portsmouth Hospital and Medical Officer in Charge of the Surgical Division, 5th Southern General Hospital, Portsmouth, is a book which nurses may study with advantage. It is dedicated to the Sisters and Nurses of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, "in the hope that it may be of assistance to them in their surgical work."

The book is a second edition, and the author in his preface states his reason for changing the name from "Operative Nursing and Technique" to "Surgical Nursing and Technique." The reason is that the objects to be kept in view, and the nursing and technique required in the treatment of surgical cases, does not materially differ, whether such cases be submitted to operation or not. The principles of wound treatment and the objects sought in either case are identical, *i.e.*, the prevention of sepsis."

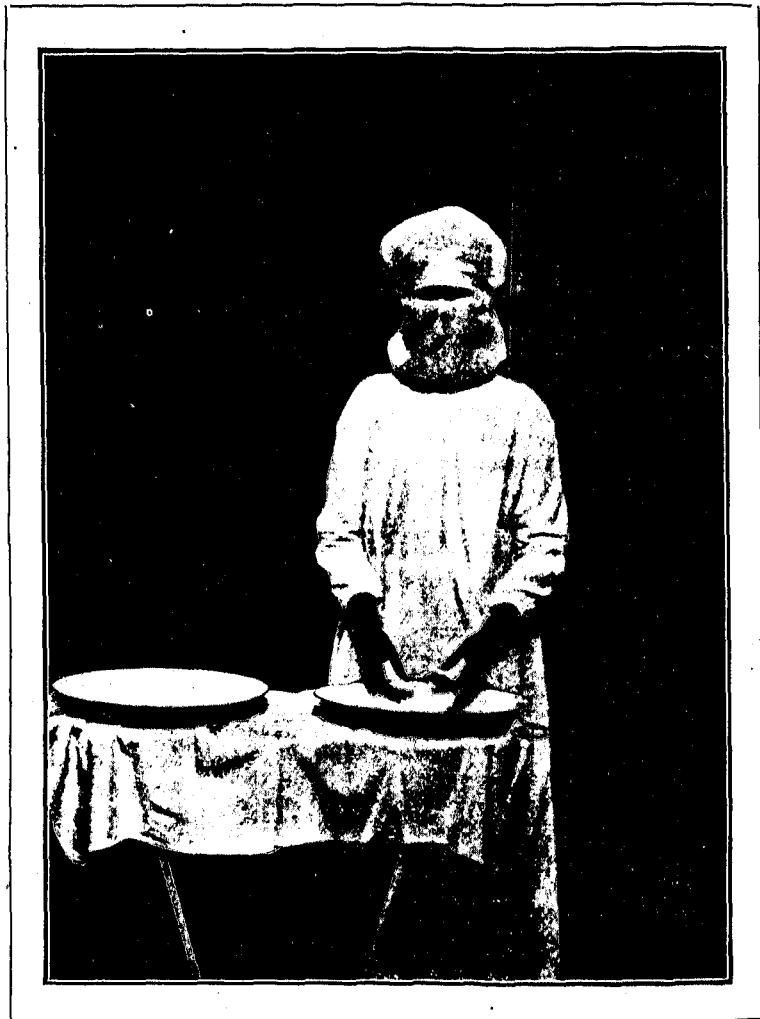
In the course of the first chapter, Lieut.-Colonel Childe draws attention to the long hours and inadequate remuneration of the nursing staff in hospitals, which, he tells us, he has long regarded as a crying injustice. He writes: "I feel sure it would be admitted by any hospital authorities who squarely faced the question that a nurse's working hours are far too long. Owing to financial considerations, the chronic dearth of the wherewithal inseparable from the voluntary principle, the matter is conveniently ignored."

Lieut.-Colonel Childe calculates that the average working day of a nurse is ten hours, inclusive of Sunday, and further, "During this long day it is contrary to ward discipline for them ever to sit down. They are on their feet all the time; and inasmuch as for financial reasons (hospitals being obliged to pinch in every possible direction) wards are generally under rather than over staffed, they are working at high pressure all the time." He points out that though women in business may have equally long hours there is always the early closing day and the Sunday's rest.

Next he pleads the cause of the hospital sisters

—thoroughly trained nurses, who are selected especially for their ability and character, and may, without exaggeration, be said to be the very pick of the nursing profession.

Lieut.-Colonel Childe is of opinion that "a woman who has gone through a three years' arduous training, has made herself a highly skilled work-woman—the mistress of a complicated technique, and an absolute necessity to the surgeon for the safe conduct of his operations and the recovery of his



THEATRE SISTER PREPARED FOR OPERATION.

patients. The least that might have been expected is that such skilled, onerous, and responsible duties would insure a decent salary. As a matter of fact they do not insure a living wage. What is the figure? Thirty pounds a

* By Charles P. Childe, B.A., F.R.C.S.Eng., Lieut.-Colonel R.A.M.C. (T.) (Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. Price [3s. 6d.]

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