

Stovain is used in a solution of water and glucose, being a fluid a little heavier than the spinal fluid itself, hence causing gravitation downwards.

It is necessary to get the bodies of the vertebræ as far apart as possible, so the patient must lie in an arched position on his left side, with the knees flexed, and a firm pad is placed under the buttock.

After the stovain has been injected a colloid dressing is applied, and the patient turned on his back, still keeping the head raised and the knees flexed.

In case of faintness one may give brandy or aromatic ammonia, or an injection of adrenalin. The patient always feels the effect generally, to a certain extent, after spinal anaesthesia.

During and after the operation the patient will require to be kept very quiet, and carefully watched for unusual symptoms which may occur.

A. G.

### QUEEN MARY'S HOSTEL FOR NURSES.

40, BEDFORD PLACE, LONDON, W.C. 1.

The Report recently issued by Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses, signed by the Chairman, Captain Harold Boulton, C.V.O., states:—

"The first year in the new Hostel has been a busy one. Up to now 4,250 nurses from all parts of the world have been our guests, 577 of whom have been sent for holidays to Taplow Court and other country places. There is hardly a corner of the globe from which nurses have not come on their way to take their part in the Great Adventure, and if this side of the enterprise alone were considered, there would be enough cause for satisfaction in the grateful letters received from hundreds of women who had come to London from the ends of the earth on their way to the Front, with no home to go to, and many of them with no friends or relations in town. Even more touching testimony as to what Queen Mary's Hostel has meant to them comes from grateful mothers of nurses living in Newfoundland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other distant places.

The two main points that all this correspondence emphasises are, first, the feeling of home and the entire absence of the 'institutional' atmosphere about the Hostel; and, secondly, the delight our guests have felt in forgoing with colleagues from all the different parts of the Empire.

It is not to be supposed for a moment that such workers as these have failed to realise to the full the Imperial significance of this little

backwater of the Great War. But if a real home in a strange city has been specially welcome to our overseas friends, we can realise how comforting its hospitality has been to every nurse, whether from Home Hospitals or from overseas, who has come to the Hostel, or returned again for a rest, in the intervals of exacting work at one of the seats of War, or in military and naval hospitals elsewhere. The fortunes of war have brought us whole batches of nurses arriving together from the great Dominions, and detached nurses from many countries, even from Iceland, shipwrecked nurses from the *Britannic*, the *Asturias*, the *Transylvania*, and war-worn heroines from all directions.

The Committee do not hesitate to say that a very large proportion of the result attained has been due to the wonderful success of Mrs. Kerr-Lawson, the Superintendent, and the rest of the Staff, in infusing their own personality into the ideal they share with Her Majesty the Queen and the Founders of the Hostel, namely, that whether at the Hostel itself, or at Taplow Court, or other houses where they are welcome, the nurses shall feel that they are each and all honoured guests in the houses of friends, whose only object is that they should have the best which friendship and hospitality can give them."

The Queen and Princess Mary have both paid welcome visits to the Hostel, and the former has sent frequent gifts of flowers.

There is no need at present to ask for financial support, as the Government War Committee have again given the Committee the wherewithal to carry on this indispensable Hostel.

We are glad to note that deep appreciation is expressed of the whole-hearted and sympathetic work of Mrs. Kerr-Lawson and the rest of the staff, appreciation which the nurse visitors will, we feel sure, most warmly applaud.

The cost of maintaining the Hostel for the past year was £3,735, a very moderate sum when one realises the high state of comfort and efficiency attained in every department. We congratulate the Committee and the officers on their very successful enterprise—a bit of "war work" of imperial value.

### MISS THURSTAN'S NEW BOOK.

We predict great popularity for Miss Thurstan's new book. Of course, it has to do with the war, and is quite original and eminently practical. The sooner it is on the market the better for war nurses and patients.

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