

not only receive a good professional education, but become acquainted with the conditions of life of those amongst whom they will subsequently work, and how to deal with the problems which will confront them.

THE HOSPITAL LAUNDRY.

Most of the provincial general hospitals have their own steam laundry attached in the grounds, the working and welfare coming under the Nursing department. The ideal laundry building is still to be planned, by the woman who knows its resources best, but until Utopia arrives what is at present in working order must be utilized to the best and fullest advantage.

The Staff.—The Board of Trade considers that to each 500 articles one worker must be allowed. This, taken all round, is a fair division, and, with care, should work easily and well.

All laundry workers come under the control of the same Board, they must work for the prescribed hours with stated times for meals, their Sundays must be free and Bank Holidays counted as holidays.

As a rule the hospital laundry workers prefer to be free from noon on Saturday until Monday morning, with hours off two evenings during the week, which enables them to get away from the heat and noise of the laundry.

A well-trained and experienced head laundress who though not required to run the machinery thoroughly understands it, is absolutely necessary. She arranges and controls the work of the laundry, keeping to the special time table which is as a rule drawn up by the Matron or her Assistant as best capable of taking in all the work of the week. Her work consists of sorting, packing, checking, superintending the calender and collar machines, and personally attending to the work of the patients, officers, nurses and maids.

It is better for the laundry staff, if possible to have their own sleeping apartments apart from the ordinary staff, and to have separate meals. The hospital provides them with uniform and clogs for the wash-house, and with mackintosh aprons to protect them whilst actually washing the clothes.

For a hospital of 120 beds and the necessary staff, one head laundress and four maids, engineer and stoker should be ample—the weekly average of articles washed making a total of 3,800.

The Building.—This ought to be well apart from the main building so that the smoke from the stoke house and the noise of the plant will not disturb the patients. A prepared footpath should lead to it so that the staff in all weathers can go and come easily. The machinery, should be well arranged so that each stage of the process may be got through in the best possible manner—washers, hydros, drying-room, calender, mangle, ironers, all following in their various degrees of use.

The ironing stove should not be in the same department as that where the actual ironing

is done, as even with the aid of asbestos screens, ventilation, and electric fans, the heat in the summer months rises in a surprising way.

There should be pigeon-holes specially marked for each department and numerous laundry baskets and trollies to hold the clothes

Superintendent.—Under this heading comes the work of checking and entering all articles sent by the wards, nursing department, home, house, maids, &c

The special books are returned to the Matron's office weekly to be gone through, and all missing articles reported. When possible, it is best for the Assistant Matron to obtain daily a list from the Ward Sisters and check this with that of the head laundress.

Where a venereal clinique is attached to the Out-Patients' Department, specially marked linen, which is treated in the same manner as that of infectious cases is the best and safest method.

Each day has its special work, the Nurses' and house linen being done on days which are not set apart for the ward linen.

The theatre washing, which in most busy general hospitals is a very heavy item, should be done daily and returned at a stated time for sterilization, this also applies to ward draw sheets and children's sundries.

Stores.—These are called weekly, preferably on Saturday, so that the soap may be melted, starch prepared, and soda portioned out, ready for the new week's work.

In a hospital where all garments are plainly and clearly marked and stocktaking is undertaken frequently there is very little trouble from lost articles.

M. K. S.

The Law Officers of the Crown have expressed the opinion that a woman is not entitled to be a candidate for Parliament, but Mr. Bonar Law, replying to questions in the House of Commons, stated that the introduction of legislation to make this legal would be considered by the Government, and admitted that when the question of extending the Parliamentary Franchise to women was under discussion it was repeatedly said that when they gave the franchise to women they could not refuse their admission to the House.

Mr. Bonar Law, replying in the House of Commons to Colonel Sir J. Craig (Down, E., U.), also said, if there was a general desire he would be glad to arrange an opportunity after the recess for a discussion on the question of opening the available galleries of the House to women and men impartially.

The Home Secretary has expressed himself in entire sympathy with the proposal for the formation of a body of women police, and also of the establishment of women special constables during the war, and promised a deputation, introduced by Lord Sydenham, to consider the whole project with a view to its development.

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