

At present only those suffering from summer diarrhoea are admitted, and these cases vary of course from extreme severity to a mild variety. Later on all classes of medical cases will be admitted. On our recent visit the tiny sufferers looked extremely well done by, and appeared as if they really appreciated the environment which has been prepared with so much kind thought and labour.

They were clothed in three simple knitted garments, and looked thoroughly comfortable in that respect—a white knitted vest, jacket, and overalls. On the verandah in cots were twin brothers, aged thirteen months, old *habitués*, who came with the personnel from the mother institution in the Fulham Road. They were being fed by turns with sago pudding, which they appeared not to dislike.

The principal ward has French windows into the garden, which is at present in an unfinished condition. A blue and white Della Robbia plaque of the Mother and Child points the true value of this blessed work. A small mortuary is nearing completion, but it is to be hoped that the pathetic little occupants will be few and far between. The tiny bodies that are destined to sleep there will, we doubt not, receive the same loving care which was bestowed upon them in the wards. What an unbounded consolation to the living is an understanding, sympathetic treatment of the dead.

The nurses' quarters are bright and comfortable as it behoves them to be, for children's nurses have more than an average drain upon their understanding and sympathy.

There is as yet no resident medical officer, though the little patients are seen daily, and of course oftener if their case so requires.

The Matron, Miss Mabel Westcott, was trained at the Evelina Hospital, and though she has had other experience, she has returned to her first love, which she considers her *metier*. Judging from her present work, we are sure she is right. Many more such hospitals are sadly needed, as all workers in poor districts will testify, and it is to be hoped that the example of the subscribers and committee of the Fulham Babies' Hospital will be widely followed.

#### NURSES AND THE PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Twenty-three members of the nursing staff of the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, and four of the nurses at the Coventry Union Infirmary, who claimed the Parliamentary franchise on the ground of "sole occupation," have had their claims admitted at the revision court.

#### HELP!

If you have a bit of news,  
Send it in;  
Or a joke that will amuse,  
Send it in.  
A story that is true,  
An incident that's new,  
We want it from you—  
Send it in.

—The Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing.

#### LECTURES ON VENEREAL DISEASES \*

The "Lectures on Venereal Diseases," by Mr. Leonard Myer, F.R.C.S., Hon. Surgeon to Out-Patients, and Lecturer on Venereal Disease to St. Paul's Hospital, London, W.C., are designed to give sufficient information on the subject of Venereal Diseases to Nurses, Midwives, and Masseurs, and are therefore to be welcomed. Until quite recently nurses have been expected to care for patients suffering from these diseases, and thus to expose themselves to the possibility of infection, but they were rarely informed of the nature of the illnesses they were required to nurse, instructed in the general symptoms of each, or in the precautions they should take for their own protection, with the result that the risks they ran from exposure to these diseases were considerably increased. To require a nurse to care for cases of this kind, and to leave her ignorant of their nature, or of the precautions which she should adopt in self-protection, and that of other patients cannot be too strongly condemned.

Mr. Myer, as he tells us in his preface, has treated the subject perhaps in a unique manner; instead of dealing with Gonorrhoea and Syphilis separately, he has essayed to keep them side by side for two reasons—one, so that the reader may easily compare both diseases as he or she proceeds, and the other because he is aware that an enormous amount of confusion of these two infections exists in the minds of some, even among people one would expect to be better informed. The book is based on a course of lectures delivered by Mr. Myer at the hospital, and the drawings which he made for these lectures have been redrawn by an expert for this publication.

Amongst the methods by which the infection of syphilis may be innocently contracted (*syphilis insontium*) are kissing, smoking an infected pipe, or using the spoon or fork of a person with a syphilitic lesion or lesions in or about the mouth. An infant may be infected in the mouth by the sore nipple of an infected wet nurse, or by an infected teat on the bottle; or a nurse may be infected in the nipple of her breast by a syphilitic infant. The surgeon or nurse or midwifery attendant may acquire the disease through a finger in the course of their professional work. Gonorrhoea may be acquired (though rarely) by the use of a towel with gonorrhoeal discharges upon it, or even by water in a bath, and we are warned that women should guard their douche, especially the nozzle, as they would, or should, their tooth brush. Both Gonorrhoea and Syphilis have been transmitted to the mistress through a servant using her douche.

Part IX is a section of special interest and importance to nurses, as it deals with the attitude and some of the duties of the nurse in venereal diseases.

We commend the book to nurses and midwives in the certainty that they will get a better grip of these diseases and so become more efficient in their care of them, after studying it.

\* The Albany Press, Bromley Place, Fitzroy Sq., W. 2.

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