

blistering fluid, wools of various kinds, razors and shaving appliances, ointments, and rubber gloves.

Another table is devoted to apparatus for the testing of urine, and here one noticed some very practical test-tube cleaners. Incidentally, it would be interesting to know what appliance is usually used by nurses for cleaning test-tubes. At St. Thomas, a compact little roll of lint is made, several inches longer than the tube, with the smooth side outside, and held firmly together with cotton. This can easily be washed and used a number of times. Another table is furnished with catheters, and everything required for use when they are passed; and yet another has appliances used in gynaecological work.

Of course, there is everything for use in preparing a variety of beds, including blocks for raising the feet, extension apparatus, sandbags, a hot-air cradle fitted with electric lamps, &c, pillows and pillow-cases of various kinds, including a jaconet pillow-case such as is used for covering the pillow in head operations, or with a hot-air bath when the patient perspires freely. For giving a hot or cold pack the use of blankets has been discarded at St. Thomas' in favour of bathsheets of Turkish towelling, which are found very satisfactory in use, and easier, both to handle and to wash, than blankets.

On one table are set out the appliances and instruments required in preparing a room for a case of tracheotomy, and on another various instruments from which a nurse will have to select those needed for a particular operation.

This by no means exhausts the contents of the tables, but enough has been said to show that the scope of the examination of nurses at St. Thomas before they gain their certificates is extensive and thorough. It is, moreover, conducted entirely by a distinguished member of the nursing profession.

The charming house of the Matron opens directly—on two floors—on to the hospital proper, and is in close touch with the Nightingale Home. It is not, perhaps, generally known, that Miss Nightingale originally intended to live there herself; but, ultimately, it was not possible for her to carry out this plan.

Just now, when the examinations to be conducted by the General Nursing Council are being discussed so widely, the method adopted at St. Thomas is of exceptional interest.

M. B.

### COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD. BIRMINGHAM THREE COUNTIES CENTRE.

The Scenic Fair, June 2nd-11th, has been a great success. £20,000 have been raised, and it is hoped not only to equip a Club for Trained Nurses but to establish it on a firm financial basis so that it will not be entirely dependent on Annual Subscriptions. It will also be possible to found Scholarships for nurses trained in the Three Counties.

G. M. E. JONES,  
*Hon. Press Sec.*

## MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

### OFFICERS' ALTERNATIVE PENSIONS.

The Ministry of Pensions announce that officers and nurses disabled by service in the great war who intend to claim alternative retired pay or pension based on pre-war earnings and present earning capacity, must make application before July 2nd, 1921, or before a year has elapsed since the first award of disability retired pay or pension, whichever is the later date.

Under the terms of the Royal Warrant, a disabled officer is not eligible for alternative retired pay if his pre-war earnings did not exceed £132 a year (rather less for Navy Warrant officers), nor is a disabled nurse eligible for alternative pension if her pre-war earnings did not exceed £95 a year.

As the substitution of alternative retired pay or pension for the ordinary flat rate pension represents in some cases a substantial addition to the amount of the pension, disabled officers and nurses should ascertain without loss of time whether they are entitled to the benefits of the Alternative System.

Applications and enquiries should be addressed to the Officers' Branch, Ministry of Pensions, Cromwell House Annexe, Millbank, S.W.1.

### THE LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

The summer meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses was held in the Clinical Theatre on June 4th, the President, Miss Helen Todd, presiding.

Congratulations were sent to Lady Baddeley on her appointment as a Justice of the Peace in the County of London, for the Stoke Newington Division, and the first woman to have that honour for Stoke Newington.

#### REPORT OF TREASURER.

The Treasurer of the League, Miss Mabel Sleigh presented the Balance Sheet for the financial year, and reported that subscriptions for 1920 had come in well, and many arrears of long standing had been paid up. The balance in hand was £101 10s., which would cover the printing of the next issue of the League News.

#### REPORT OF SECRETARY.

In the regretted absence of the Secretary, Miss H. T. Baines, on sick leave, the Secretary's Report was presented by Miss Beatrice Cutler. It stated that 37 new members had been elected during the year, 1 had been re-instated, and there had been 4 deaths. The membership of the League was now 1,088.

On the proposition of the President it was unanimously agreed to send an expression of sympathy from the League to the relatives of the

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