

THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER has forwarded to the promoters of the New Children's Hospital and Convalescent Home at Rhyl, a communication promising to contribute £1,000 towards the purchase of a site, and £2,000 to the building fund.

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I AM glad, for once, to chronicle something pleasant in connection with the London Hospital. By the will of the late Dr. H. E. Price, of Brighton (an old student of the hospital and college), the sum of £5,000, free of legacy duty, has been bequeathed to the London Hospital and Medical College to found scholarships.

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MISS MAUD MANSEL, sister of Miss Emily Mansel, and late Superintendent of the Bishop Auckland District Nursing Association, has been appointed a Sister in the Indian Army Service.

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MISS ETHEL LAWRENCE has been appointed Matron to the Lewes Infirmary. She was trained at the Sussex County Hospital, the nursing of which, under the superintendence of Miss G. Scott, is quite up to date.

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MISS S. C. FLETCHER has been appointed Superintendent Nurse of the Batford Union Hospital, Nottingham. She was trained at the York County Hospital, and was promoted to the position of Sister in that institution. Miss Fletcher has also held responsible posts at the Chichester and Stockport Infirmaries, and holds a diploma for midwifery.

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"It is our littleness that sees no greatness in a trifle." This is true if success is a multiple of careful details. It is true, therefore, the *Lancet* says, of perfection of every art and work, even the commonest, and among such a contemporary has assigned a place to the seemingly menial art of dusting. For, as he says truly enough, there is an art in dusting, and it is one which on every ground deserves far more studious cultivation than it usually receives. Different observers have from time to time described the components of ordinary dust, and these, it is needless to say, exhibit special characters in almost endless variety. Mineral matters, animal and vegetable debris, morbid germs—whatever, in fact, is light enough and small enough to remain for a time suspended in air, comes under this common and generic but far from harmless term. The spread of cholera and exanthematous diseases has, no

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doubt with perfect truth, been attributed to its influence. It is clear, then, that the method to be employed for its removal is a matter of some importance. As regards this, we need hardly discuss every suggestion of housewifery. Some would pin their faith, not without reason, to the damp duster rather than the dry one; but this will not suffice in itself, and, moreover, every kind of furniture does not bear such treatment. Where possible, of course, it is of the two the more effectual plan. Above all, however, it is needful to remember that the object aimed at, is not displacement of dust only, but its removal, and for this purpose a combination of thorough daily ventilation by open doors and windows, with careful sweeping, followed by at least displacement of any dust still remaining, with a cloth, is the only method alike feasible and effective. All overcrowding with furniture or with woven fabrics is to be avoided. Bed curtains and valances are no less objectionable, and bare floors are more wholesome than the choicest carpets. Nowhere is care in these particulars more justified or more imperative than in the crowded homes of the poor. Let one other point be mentioned—the healthy effect of sunlight. It is now admitted that some disease germs lose their power on exposure to light. In this fact we have a standing protest against the custom of darkening rooms with lowered blinds, or that æsthetic error which covers the window space with crossed curtains.

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In all thorough Nursing schools, "the dust belongs to the Nurse," and the dusting of the Ward is not part of the Ward-maid's duty—for the reason that its most careful removal should only be entrusted to the person who is responsible for the welfare of the patient, and who can thoroughly appreciate its danger in proximity to open wounds. I once knew a Probationer—in the early days of lady pupils, when no special Ward duties were assigned to them—occupy herself for ten minutes in dusting the test case (I own with her clean cambric pocket-handkerchief), when a veteran of some ten years' experience laid a deterring hand upon her arm, and earnestly remarked—"Not so fast, young woman, if you please; you are quite at liberty to 'put up fractures' and converse with the visiting staff; but I can't permit you to interfere with *my dust*." "Ah! Nurse dear, do let me show you how beautifully I can polish up those test-tubes. I assure you I have been used to dust old china,"

NOTICE.—Messrs. Baelz and Co. respectfully invite correspondence from the members of the Nursing profession, to whom they will be happy to forward full particulars of Messrs. Loefflund and Co.'s products, and quote special terms in such cases as may be found conducive to a thorough and practical test of these "excellent preparations." 14-20, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

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