

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The King and Queen will open the King George Hospital at Ilford on Saturday, July 18th.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York, President of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, recently visited the Hospital and expressed her great appreciation of the work in progress.

Viscountess Leverhulme is organizing an appeal for £50,000 in aid of the Marie Curie Hospital for Cancer, of which the Queen is patron. Mary Countess of Minto is President of the appeal.

The Four Georges Loan Exhibition at 25, Park Lane in aid of the Royal Northern Hospital is now closed, and as a result the gross amount of £6,411 has been realised. Mr. E. Assheton Bennet, of 12, Hyde Park Place, was the holder of the successful ticket, in the draw of the raffle tickets for the original poster designed by Mr. Rex Whistler.

To commemorate the election of Dr. John Gay as Master, the Leathersellers' Company have sent a cheque for 100 guineas to the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney. Dr. Gay is the medical officer of the Royal Hospital, Putney, and married a very charming nurse from Barts.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Heygate Vernon, F.R.C.S., of Bournemouth, left £500 to the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, for an annual prize to such nurse trained there as, in the opinion of the matrons and sisters, should be the best and most efficient nurse of her year.

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

SURGICAL NURSING.*

And the Principles of Surgery for Nurses.

The sixth edition of "Surgical Nursing" by Mr. Russell Howard, C.B.E., M.S., F.R.C.S., surgeon to the London Hospital, Lecturer on Surgical Nursing at the London Hospital, and Examiner to Nurses at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, the Westminster Hospital, etc., is, like its predecessors, a most valuable handbook on the subject of which it treats, additions and alterations have been made to keep pace with the advances of surgery. The author in his preface emphasises that "Modern nursing has passed beyond the stage of passive obedience. The active strides made by surgery in the past few years demand a great increase of knowledge on the part of the nurse, who must understand the principles upon which the surgeon is working in order to render him efficient aid."

And in his Introduction, Mr. Russell Howard writes:—"A nurse must understand broadly—if not in detail—the disease which she is nursing; she should know whether an operation is likely to be performed or not, whether the disease is necessarily fatal, and what emergencies and complications are likely to arise during the course of the case, so that she may be prepared for them should they occur."

Over and over again in the course of the book the author emphasises the importance of this intelligent co-operation on the part of the nurse, and allows her a wide discretion in administering emergency treatment.

The treatment of most surgical cases is carried out, we are told, by the application of two great principles—*cleanliness* and *rest*. Operations are only likely to be successful if these two principles are strictly adhered to,

* Published by Edward Arnold & Co., 41 and 43, Maddox Street, London, W.1. Price 7s. 6d. net.

and many operations are unjustifiable unless the surgeon is absolutely certain that he can keep his wounds clean. The surgeon cannot cure a patient or heal a wound; that must be done by a natural process. He can only place his patient in the best possible position for being cured, and it is the nurse's duty to see that this position is maintained.

After entering in detail into the methods of infection, and their prevention, and inflammation, the author deals with the action of micro-organisms, and specific infectious fevers. Writing of tuberculosis he points out that the bacillus gains admission into man:

(1) By the digestive tract, as in milk taken from cows with tuberculous udders.

(2) By the respiratory tract, as by the inhalation of the dust of dried phthisical sputa.

(3) By direct inoculation through the skin by the infection of wounds.

The bacillus is carried by the blood stream about the body till it settles in some place, usually where slight injury has occurred and there grows and produces its characteristic lesion. Two things are therefore necessary to set in action a tuberculosis process—the *seed* and a *suitable soil*. "The seed, the tubercle bacillus is very liberally distributed among the haunts of men, and tuberculosis would be more common than it is if the suitable soil were not of much greater importance than the seed." Our readers will agree that this description if assimilated affords a clear mental picture which can be called up at will.

A very valuable section among the specific infectious fevers is that devoted to syphilis, the initial infection, the three stages, the symptoms, the care needed in nursing patients suffering from this disease to prevent personal infection, and nursing points to be observed, and a warning is given "it must not be forgotten either that the nurse may convey this disease to another patient, and, by a carelessness which is criminal, help to spread a disease which is one of the curses of modern life."

Until comparatively recently, although nurses were in frequent contact with patients suffering from this terrible disease, they were kept in total ignorance of all the above details, and it is to the honour of our profession that a trained nurse (the Honourable Albinia Brodrick), in an outspoken address at the Congress convened in London by the International Council of Nurses in 1909, was the first to draw attention to them, and, even then, a considerable time elapsed before teaching concerning the venereal diseases was systematically given in training schools for nurses.

Of new growths the following definition is given by the author:—"A new growth is an atypical new formation not the result of inflammation." He states further that "an understanding of the nature and the effects produced by these new growths is essential to an intelligent comprehension of surgical nursing, as a large part of the work in a surgical ward is the treatment of these growths and the complications that arise from their presence."

We could go on quoting at length from this book, but we have, we hope, shown sufficiently that it is one to be possessed and absorbed by individual nurses, and that it should be included in nurses' libraries. Its insistence on intelligent co-operation on the part of nurses, and its extreme lucidity make it an extremely valuable text-book.

A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

I believe that life is the expression of a will or law which has a purpose in every one of its manifestations.

I believe that this world is only a shadow of the real world, and I think that by brooding on what is brightest and most generous in this world the beauty and the bounty and the majesty of the real world shine in upon the soul.—*John Masefield, Poet Laureate.*

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