

as 1930-31 that whereas the practice of washing the hands when going from one patient to another is "an established rite" on the pediatric wards, this is not the case on the adult divisions, where in a large majority of cases the student nurse fails to wash her hands in going from one patient to another. A nurse on the pediatric division will wash her hands as often as sixty-seven times, while a nurse in the same period of time on an adult division will wash her hands only "a few times." This report may show a weakness rather than an improvement in regard to this aspect of medical asepsis, but the fact that such criticisms are being made, the repeated directions for hand-washing in procedure manuals and nursing texts, and the increased facilities for carrying out this technique in hospitals, indicate that there is an improvement in this phase of nursing care.

The increasing use of paper covers and containers for numerous purposes throughout the hospital is giving patients more protection from pathogenic bacteria, and by so doing is reducing the opportunities for infection. Paper sheets are being used on examining tables, on head-pieces, and on arms of chairs, under parts that are to be dressed, as covers for trays, and as napkins. Paper cartons and bags are used as specimen containers and as containers for waste, and for other purposes too numerous to mention. Many of these destructible articles contribute something toward that ideal practice which gives complete protection of the patient and the attendants.

#### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER.

In reply to our Prize Competition question for September, "What most impressed you at the recent International Congress of Nurses?" we have not received answers in conformity with the conditions qualifying for the Prize, but quote the following replies:

##### (1) PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER.

*Answer:* Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and her wonderful powers of organisation.

GERTRUDE VERGETTE  
(Lady Superintendent).

Santa Claus Home for Sick Children,  
55, Cholmeley Park, Highgate, N.6.

##### (2) DEAR MADAM,

As a member of the National Council of Trained Nurses of the Irish Free State, I attended the Congress, and it goes without saying I enjoyed it immensely. The particular branch in which I am now engaged put up a very good show, and I hope more of the general trained Nurses will be led to take an interest in our work. But what I set out to say was that in answer to the question: "What most impressed you at the recent International Congress of Nurses?" What most impressed me was the refreshing absence of lip-stick and coloured finger nails amongst that throng of well groomed and fashionably dressed young women, and I congratulate the Nurses on their sense of the fitness of things.

I am, yours faithfully,  
E. M. DELANEY, R.G.N., R.M.N., C.S.M.M.G.  
Mental Hospital, Mullingar. (Matron.)

## NURSING ECHOES.

After a year's intensive work as Chairman of the Congress Arrangements Committee and the Programme Committee, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick wishes many kind correspondents to know that she is off duty for a few weeks. She greatly appreciates their kind personal letters, and hopes to reply to them at an early date.

The announcement that Sir Alfred Law, M.P. for the High Peak Division of Derbyshire, has decided to endow a nursing home for the treatment of post-encephalitic Parkinsonism will be received with thankfulness and joy by trained nurses, whose hearts are wrung by the tragedy of post-encephalitic cases in which the nature of the sufferer is apparently changed, and his anti-social behaviour may bring him within the arm of the law. It is slowly being recognised that what is needed by these sorely afflicted people, often mere boys and girls, who are suffering from a terrible disease, is not punishment, and maybe imprisonment, but medical treatment and sympathetic nursing care.

The Nursing Home to be endowed by Mr. Law will provide accommodation for 30 patients, and those who cannot afford to pay fees will be admitted free of charge, an arrangement for which Sir Alfred Law will receive the deep gratitude of parents who are distressed at the tragedy to which their children have fallen victims, but are unable to afford to pay for treatment, and are themselves obliged to leave home to earn their daily bread, and thus can exercise little control over their afflicted children.

Sir Alfred Law has decided to endow this home as a result of the experiments of Dr. C. C. Fenwick, and Dr. Neuwahl, of Rochdale who, for the last twelve months, have experimented with a new treatment discovered about eight years ago by a Bulgarian doctor.

Nurses will watch the results of this treatment with deepest interest and with heartfelt gratitude to Sir Alfred Law for making its trial possible in this country.

Two letters addressed to the *Times*, the first on September 1st, by Major Raphael Jackson, Secretary of Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End, Stratford, and the second by Mr. H. M. Walton, Secretary of the Middlesex Education Committee, deal, under the heading "Recruits for Nursing," with the question of the shortage of probationers, and both propose remedies which they believe will overcome this shortage.

Major Jackson is of opinion that what is wanted is a national nursing college for giving preliminary training to girls between the ages of 16 and 18, or 16 and 19, as the case may be; that these girls may receive lectures, tuition, and coaching that will easily enable them to pass their examination when they enter hospital life. Meanwhile, they would live in this "national home," which would have the advantages of a delightful public school, where all sorts of recreations could be indulged in, where they would be taught the discipline they would afterwards have to follow."

Mr. Walton describes a less ambitious scheme but has the advantage of being able to state that it has been

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