

SOME AMERICAN HOSPITALS.

BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

VIII.—THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL.

THIS institution was reorganised recently, and placed under the direction of Dr. J. S. Billings. It is unnecessary to say that as a result of Dr. Billings's management the whole hospital has undergone a complete renovation, and it may be favourably compared with any similar institution in Philadelphia. The drainage, plumbing, interior decoration, floors, operation theatre, laundry, lavatories, and in fact, the whole of the buildings have been thoroughly overhauled, re-constructed, and modernised. A new mortuary, with a mortuary chapel, has been erected at the back of the hospital. The accommodation for paying patients has been greatly increased, and it is believed that the income derived from them will ultimately be sufficient to enable the trustees to free themselves from debt by paying off the mortgages. With the view of strengthening the financial administration, the Board of Managers have applied to the legislature for State aid to the extent of seventy thousand dollars. The wards are pleasant in appearance, excellently kept, and thoroughly comfortable. The staff seem to take a genuine interest in their work. The temperature of the hospital is so adjusted as to make it much more pleasant as a residence than many of those we have inspected during our visit to the United States. The hospital is inadequately supported at the present time, as the debt for current supplies amounts to 33,531 dollars. The hospital has accommodation for about 120 patients, the average number under treatment last year having been about 100. The average stay and residence of each patient was 26 days. Total expenditure about 60,000 dollars. The average cost of maintenance for each patient per diem is 7s., or \$1.74 of the whole number of in-patients admitted, viz., 1,181, 656 or more than one-half were pay patients. These patients appear to have paid altogether 20,000 dollars for their accommodation, or about 30 dollars each. The actual average expense charged to a patient per diem was 8s., or \$1.95.

NURSING DEPARTMENT.

THIS hospital has a nursing home, and the whole department is in charge of the Superintendent, Miss Davis. The school was organised in 1886, and has now become an important feature of the hospital. There are thirty nurses in course of training. Instruction is given by lectures, demonstrations, and practical teaching, the whole of the arrangements being in the immediate charge of the Assistant Superintendent. The Committee give a medal each year to the nurse who graduates with the highest honours. It is called the Nightingale Medal, and has so far been awarded to Mary Clymer,

Mary Fisher, and Caroline Sless. The home was erected in 1886, and presented to the hospital as a memorial to Mrs. Richard D. Wood. The special feature of the school, and one which attracts educated women here for training, is the large number of private patients in the hospital, which affords an opportunity for special instruction to the nurses in the advanced classes, who are also given much individual responsibility in the private wards. These advantages prove of the utmost value to the nurses when they first engage in private work after they have graduated.

IX.—GARFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, WASHINGTON.

THIS is a small hospital, having about sixty beds, and is in course of extension. It is pleasantly situated. There is a most excellent view of the city from the roof. An old house was originally purchased which now forms the central or administration block, and pavilions have recently been built on either side of it, so that the plan has now become an example of the H-type. Three hundred and ninety patients were admitted during the year, of whom 61 were coloured. The hospital contains a number of private wards, to which patients are admitted upon payment of 25 dols. a-week, with such fees in addition for operations and medical attendance as may be mutually agreed to. The accommodation for pay patients is excellent in every way, and most inviting. Altogether, the Garfield Hospital is in excellent order, and shows what good work may be done by the ladies if they set their minds to do it; this institution being largely maintained by the Ladies' Aid Association. The hospital is under the superintendence of Miss S. F. Palmer, and its present condition reflects the greatest credit upon her, and shows that she is not only devoted, but most successful in maintaining discipline, good order, and thoroughness throughout the whole establishment. We congratulate the people of Washington upon the position of this small hospital, our visit to which gave us great pleasure, because everything appeared to be done so heartily and thoroughly.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

Nearly all the American hospitals, whether large or small, undertake the training of nurses, hold examinations, and issue certificates of graduation. Of course, the practice pursued differs in various points, and is in many points at variance with the rules enforced by the British hospital authorities. We propose to give certain articles on training in the "Nursing Mirror Supplement," and shall therefore reserve any remarks we have to make on the instruction of nurses in the United States for the present.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

ONE of the latest additions to the Zoological Gardens is a Japanese curiosity in the shape of some white mice, which are peculiar for their feline habit of running after their own tails!

THERE is a prevailing belief, and rightly so, that the mumps are decidedly catching. It has been left to Judge Shand to throw fresh light on the infectious nature of this unpleasant and disfiguring complaint, his experience of which seems to have been peculiarly unfortunate. In giving judgment recently at Liverpool in a case in which the complaint formed the *casus belli*, his Honour announced feelingly, "One can catch it (the mumps) almost in five minutes by looking at a person, as I know by my own experience."

ONE part each of lactic acid and salicylic acid, mixed with eight parts of collodion is recommended as an effective application either to corns or warts, causing their removal very speedily. The discoverer of this simple remedy, if it accomplishes all that is asserted on its behalf, deserves a testimonial.

How delighted elderly ladies will be to hear of a simple method of restoring their long-lost youth. If the *Medical Press* is not so ungallant as to be having a laugh at their expense, this much-desired end can be attained by rubbing lanolin well into the skin. The result of this treatment is said to be the smoothing out of all those tell-tale folds which are the despair of those upon whom time is setting his mark.