

Barrier Nursing in Fever Cases.

ON Tuesday, July 26, in the Lecture Theatre of the General Hospital, Birmingham (by kind permission of the Governors), Dr. Harries, Medical Superintendent of the City Hospital, Little Bromwich, gave an interesting lecture to members of the Birmingham and Three Counties Centre of the College Local Centre on "Barrier Nursing in Fever Cases." Dr. Harries declared that the success of barrier nursing can only be attained if the ward sister and staff nurses are general-trained and proficient in surgical asepsis. The technique of barrier nursing is based on the fact that infectious diseases are spread not by infection through air, but by immediate or intermediate contact; smallpox is the exception to this rule. The first experiment in barrier nursing took place in Paris twenty years ago, when glass screens were erected between the beds and the cubicle system was introduced. This was superseded by the abolition of the screens and the introduction of the invisible barrier, the beds being marked by a blue band for definite fevers and a red band for observation or questionable cases. In Liverpool the distinctive marks have now been abolished, and the Medical Superintendent relies solely on the skill and efficiency of the nurses.

Dr. Harries detailed the advantages of barrier nursing as follows: During an epidemic, when small isolation wards are not obtainable, suspicious rashes can be kept under observation; patients suffering from one definite fever who have been in contact with relatives suffering from another can be isolated; patients recovering from one fever, having contracted a second, can be admitted without endangering others; patients can be warded for observation.

The disadvantages are: The heavy strain entailed on the nurses; the large nursing *personnel* required—a ward of thirty-two beds needs one sister, two staff nurses (general-trained), and eight probationers; the amount of floor space: the authorised space between the beds is 12 ft., the space from foot to foot 16½ ft.

At the conclusion of his lecture Dr. Harries cordially invited the nurses present to visit the City Hospital and see barrier nursing in practice.

Founders' Day at Gloucester.

ON July 23 a Fête was held in the grounds of the hospital to celebrate Founders' Day. The wards and various departments were open to visitors, and the grounds were gay with stalls and side-shows. The Cotswold Players gave two performances of a new historical play, "The Breaking Point," and the Wagon Works Silver Band delighted everyone with their fine selections. A wireless-telegraphy receiving apparatus provided a novel and interesting form of attraction. Teas were served in the nurses' garden. Although the briskness of the proceedings was somewhat marred by the uncertainty of the weather, the amount realised was no less than £210. Pound gifts to the value of £39 were taken at the gate. The primary object of the organisers—viz., to create and preserve a widespread personal interest in the hospital—is undoubtedly greatly furthered by such a practical celebration of Founders' Day.

The League of Remembrance.

THE first anniversary of the League of Remembrance, which does such useful work in making articles for hospitals and Infant Welfare Centres, was celebrated by a dinner at the Connaught Rooms. Princess Beatrice, the Duchess of Albany, and Princess Marie Louise honoured the gathering with their presence. The Chairman, Mr. John Murray, C.V.O., in his speech told how the League grew from the War Depôt in Cavendish Square, largely on the initiative of H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany, who desired to make permanent the devotion and energy that had found vent during the war. The present work of the League is described in THE HOSPITAL of July 2. During the last year 200,000 articles have been made for hospitals and other institutions in its home at 2 Marlborough Gate. As the League makes up free of charge all materials sent to it to any desired pattern, it is a real saving to hospitals, both in money and in time. The League at present numbers about 1,200 members, but its usefulness could be largely extended by an increased membership.

Answers to Correspondents.

(Correspondents are reminded that all inquiries are answered in these columns. We do not give postal replies. A coupon cut from the current issue must be enclosed with each inquiry.)

POSTS IN A SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION.—Your best plan is to watch the advertisements in THE HOSPITAL, *The Nursing Mirror*, and the other nursing papers; also in the daily papers. We note you and your friend want to find a post together as matron and assistant matron or nurse, both being fully trained, and that you want to have your private sitting-room. You may find it quicker to advertise than to wait for such vacancies to be advertised. A cottage hospital might answer your requirements. It would only be the larger schools where two trained nurses would be employed.—F. M. C.

MASSAGE TRAINING.—The minimum time for training for massage is twelve months. Write for particulars and fees to the Secretary, Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics, 157 Great Portland Street, W. You would have to give up the greater part of your time to the work whilst training, and would not be able easily to continue other occupation.—B. S.

NURSING WORK IN HOSPITALS IN CHINA OR INDIA.—As you are untrained we do not see what employment you could get. If you want to train as a nurse there is the Government General Hospital, Madras, or the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta. Perhaps one of these might receive you, but you would probably have to train alongside of Eurasians. In China there is the Shanghai General Hospital or the St. Luke's Hospital. Write to the matrons in each case.—G. B.

NURSING BOOKS IN GENERAL AND MATERNITY WORK.—"The Handbook for Nurses," by J. K. Watson, 11s. 3d. net, post free; "The Practical Text-Book of Midwifery," by Robert Jardine, 8s. 3d. net, post free; "A Complete Handbook of Midwifery," by J. K. Watson, 11s. 3d. net, post free. You can obtain all these from The Scientific Press, 28 and 29 Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.—M. G. H.

BOOKS ON ELEMENTARY FIRST-AID AND HOME NURSING.—"The British Red Cross Society First-Aid and Home Nursing, Manuals I. and II.," by Sir James Cantlie; "Training in First-Aid and Nursing by Question and Answer," by Capt. S. T. Beggs, M.D., 2s. 2d., post free; "Home Nursing for the Use of Red Cross Workers and in the Home," by Edith Newsome, 2s. 9d., post free. You can obtain all these from The Scientific Press, 28 and 29 Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.—E. M. W.

Garden Fete at Cardiff.

ON Saturday, July 23, a very successful garden fête was held in the grounds of Greenlawn, Cardiff (by kind permission of Sir John Lynn-Thomas, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.), in aid of the Prince of Wales' Hospital for Limbless and Cripples, Cardiff. Two Cardiff gentlemen undertook to defray the expenses, so that the whole of the gross proceeds might go to the hospital. In addition to the usual features associated with a garden fête, there were several novelties that added interest to the function and assisted the funds considerably. Two signed photographs of the Prime Minister and Dame Margaret Lloyd George were put up to auction and secured 50 guineas, the purchaser being Sir William Diamond, who has always been a generous supporter of the hospital. A live young pig was sold, with the condition that the purchaser should lead it home. The result was that the pig was resold several times, realising £10, the final purchaser handing it over to Major Linthune, of Rookwood Hospital, for the benefit of the patients there. Other profitable sales were an average price of 5s. each for twenty bananas. With such keen buying, it is not surprising that, despite threatening skies, the amount realised by the fête was £500.