

*versus* Material," or perhaps it is *very* early English; at any rate, it is conspicuous by its absence, though there is every other convenience to lighten labour, everything that can make hard work as agreeable and easy as circumstances will permit. This is truly the *beehive* of the Hospital. Those snowy caps, aprons, collars, and cuffs, so dainty and becoming, represent, at the end of the week, a mountain of labour. What could be better than for the Nurses and Probationers to give *one*, or even two hours, to the completing of this starch edifice?

It is surprising what *method* in laundry work will accomplish, especially when accompanied by willing hands, and any amount of soap and soda. In arranging for the washing of a Hospital of the size under consideration, I should divide the work into sections, and specially day by day, not permitting one day's duties to infringe upon another; by so doing I feel sure a deal of unnecessary labour could be spared. Nurses can also materially assist the laundress by *care* in the Wards. There is an amount of recklessness shown sometimes that should be carefully guarded against, and which adds much to the weekly burden in the laundry. The number of articles allowed for each Nurse is from a dozen to fifteen. I believe in most London Hospitals dresses *only* are washed, but though this "early English" *one* does not indulge in machinery, it is very liberal in other matters, and everything is to be washed on the premises.

We will now proceed to count the endless number of dozens, and see how many pairs of hands will be necessary to restore them to their usual snowy—well, perhaps "*snow*" had better be left out of the question—sometimes "*sooty*" would be more applicable. This cannot be helped, so we will say, folded, mangled, aired, and ready for the shelves of the linen closets, *fit* for use.

We have an average number of fifty-four patients, their linen (allowing three dozen more than suggested for articles such as night-dresses, shirts, &c., which have frequently to be supplied by the Hospital, and consequently have to be washed) will amount to eighteen dozens.

The house-linen required for twenty in staff, allowing for extra blankets and occasional quilts, will be twelve dozens. The personal linen of the staff, allowing an average of sixteen each, including dresses, comes to twenty-six dozens, the whole when complete being as follows:—Patients' linen, eighteen dozen; house-linen (20), twelve dozen; personal linen of staff (20), twenty-six dozen; total number fifty-six dozen.

Judging from constant experience, the number of articles passing through *one* woman's hands, and taking into consideration the convenience

always found is a Hospital laundry, I should have no hesitation in saying two laundresses could satisfactorily manage the above quantity.

Should it occasionally happen that a very much larger number was used, I should then engage outside help, per day, as required, but consider—for the staff named, and number of linen quoted—that two laundresses would be required permanently. I should advise the arrangement of their work in this way:—

*Monday*, the first item on the list, and considering that everything is very plain and nothing very large, it can easily be done—mangled and hung up to air—finished. *Tuesday*, the second item, that is, the household linen of the staff, finished in the same way. These are all plain sailing we may say. *Wednesday* and *Thursday*, the personal linen, which, though far greater in number, full a quarter are very small and require very little labour in comparison. Consequently I should expect these dry, folded, and possibly starched, and the laundry clean, tidy, and ready for *Friday*, when comes the "tug of war," for everything *must* be finished by noon—should be—on Saturday, so as to allow of a little well-earned holiday.

It may appear a large quantity—it *is* undoubtedly—but a simple method or system will lighten labour considerably. Collars and cuffs *fly* almost under the hand of a skilful ironer; dresses can be done four in the hour. Aprons are very particular, they require more finishing touch; but Nurses might choose this dainty work, and what may be styled the "*crème de la crème*" of laundry work.

The Ward Maids fetch all belonging to their particular Wards; the housemaid that which is in *her* charge.

The Sisters count before receiving it back into their charge again, looking so fresh and different to when they had the *last* view of it. No one can deny that laundry work pays for the trouble. The laundry now assumes a cool and shady aspect; the clouds of steam and general "soap-suddy" effects vanish for a brief interval, and it becomes almost a possibility that, after all, we may hear of an application for the post of "A Lady Laundress."

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❧ The price of the few unsold copies of the *Nursing Record Double Summer Number*, which includes the beautiful coloured plate of Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, is now sixpence each, but new subscribers, that is to say, those who subscribe for the *Nursing Record* to commence Vol. VI. will of course have the Special number included without any extra charge.

*previous page*

*next page*