

Cleanliness of the Room.—As a rule, except in some surgical cases, the nurse has no opportunity of preparing the room for the patient as he already occupies it; she can only do such cleaning and re-arranging as are necessary for keeping the room healthy.

The best coverings for the floor are linoleum, and one or two small carpets. Carpets should not extend over the whole room, but be used as "treads" to prevent unnecessary noise.

The bedstead should be narrow, with a woven wire mattress, covered with a hair or good flock mattress, encased in a washable cover (p. 20). The bedstead should be placed in such a position that only the head is against the wall. The position should be adapted to the situation of the windows when possible, so as to avoid facing the light. In the case of a convalescent, or a patient undergoing open-air treatment, the bed may be wheeled to the window so that the patient can see out.

The bedclothes should be light and warm. If required, a mackintosh sheet must be provided, so that the mattress does not become soiled.

Nothing whatever must be kept under the bed.

The furniture should be simple and there should be as little of it as is necessary to comfort; superfluous furniture should be removed. At the same time zeal must be tempered with discretion, and the room should not be rendered more bare and comfortless than the needs of the case demand.

The room should be cleaned and dusted every day. To avoid raising dust when sweeping, the floor should be swept after damp sawdust or tea leaves have been put down. If the floor is covered with a large carpet, it should be cleaned with a carpet sweeper as this will prevent the dust rising, or rubbed over with a damp cloth, or brushed with a damp hand brush. The dust must not be allowed to accumulate under the bed or furniture, or in the corners of the room. If the floor is covered with linoleum it should be washed or rubbed over every morning instead of being swept. Small carpets can be removed for cleaning.

Blinds are a great source of dust unless properly cleaned; they should be rubbed on both sides with a damp cloth. Venetian blinds should be washed periodically and dusted every morning. Dusting should be done with two dusters, a damp one to remove the dust and prevent it flying from one place to another, and a dry one to polish after the damp one. Pictures need dusting every day back and front, and all ledges must be wiped down with a damp duster daily.

All washing utensils must be thoroughly washed and cleansed