

comes from without. It is a marvel to us that those who are making their political party distrusted, and who are themselves being openly opposed by the Medical profession throughout the country, cannot see that they are striving to organise a class of workers which is certain to disappear; that they are working for a cause built on the shallowest sentiment; that they cannot refute the arguments of their opponents, and that their own proposals will not bear the slightest investigation.

### OBSTETRIC NURSING.

— BY OBSTETRICA, M.B.N.A. —

#### PART I.—MATERNAL.

#### CHAPTER IX.—LESIONS.

#### VESICO OR RECTO VAGINAL FISTULA.

(Continued from page 100.)

At their completion, this Course of Lectures will be published as one of the Series of "Nursing Record Text Books and Manuals."

WE will now turn to the more practical part of the matter, and touch upon the Nursing duties required in cases of involuntary escape of urine, be the cause what it may.

Our first care is cleanliness. How shall we carry it out?

There are numbers of surgical appliances that are said to be useful here, and you may have medical instructions to use them. But for my part I prefer to resort to simpler measures, though it may give us more trouble, and prefer to use constantly renewed draw-sheets, as being on the whole more conducive to the comfort of the patient. The best draw-sheets for the purpose are folds of old soft blankets, and being porous they are easily washed. The waterproof sheeting (which shares my nursing affections with sponges) must be always used—we shall require two pieces. The patient's hips should be covered with a flannel petticoat, and this again should be open all down the front, and we shall require two or three of them at least; the night-dress kept *above* the hips. Now, how will you deal with these blankets and flannels when you remove them so as to keep them clean and purified? We shall require four sets of draw-sheets, such as I told you. When you take any one of them away from the patient place it in a

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foot-pan, and have it taken away and *at once* rinsed through an *abundant* supply of clean *cold* water, wrung through the machine, and again rinsed in plenty of *cold* water, wrung as dry as possible, and hung out in the open air to dry and sweeten as long as you can spare them, then brought in and aired by the fire, and sent up to your room for use, and this process must go on as long as the necessity for it exists. The one point you are ever to bear in mind is to have the pieces of blankets and flannels put into plenty of *cold* water at once; never allow them to get dry until *after* they are washed. You may say all this is a great deal of trouble, but as far as my experience goes you will be repaid for it in the comfort of your patient. There is no *gêne* about these arrangements, which is more than you can say about more ambitious measures. You will have to change the waterproof sheeting every day. When not in use it must be kept *constantly* in the air after being well cleaned and disinfected.

We all know what an inestimable advantage good laundry arrangements are in all Nursing work, and in our position doubly so, for we have two patients to keep clean; and by laundry work I do not mean that ornamental part of it commonly called clear-starching, for that to us is a matter of comparatively little consequence, but good washing, in which abundance of water plays a leading part, and soaps ("hard" or "dry") a secondary and either or both should be *thoroughly* rinsed out of the linen before it is dried, and this again should be done whenever possible in the open air. My readers may say all these arrangements can be easily carried out in country or suburban houses, but what are we to do if we are Nursing a lady in a typical London house, in a typical London street, where the outside space (?) is limited to a few feet of area? Well, we have to fall back upon our washerwoman, and in a measure lose our control over matters. We must arrange to have the soiled linen sent for *every morning* and returned the following day—the *less time* it is away the better; also, that *all* the child-bed linen is to be washed *apart* from any other, and so much importance do I attach to the sanitary advantages of *isolation*, that I would extend the same rule to the Nurse's washing, and have it all done by the same washerwoman.

When we have to deal with the Nursing trouble we have touched upon, and under *urban* conditions, we must palliate the evil in this wise. As soon as the draw-sheets are removed, put them into a large pan of cold water and have them

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