

**Notes on Practical Nursing.****PREPARATION OF OPERATING ROOM SUPPLIES  
AND THE OPERATING ROOM IN  
HOSPITALS AND HOMES.**

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**BANDAGES.**

Bandages are generally made of rubber, unbleached domestic, Canton flannel, woollen flannel, and bleached gauze. According to their shape they are divided as follows: Roller bandages, T bandages, many tail bandages, triangular bandages, broad straight bandages, and Y bandages.

*Roller Bandages* are made in different sizes to fit the parts to which they are applied. They are made from any of the before mentioned materials, and can either be plain, sterile or medicated. Plain bandages are commonly used in suppurating cases, in cases of emergency, if s.c. emergency dressings are not prepared, and in private practice. The material used is preferably torn, except the rubber and gauze, which are cut. The bandages are tightly and evenly rolled by aid of a bandage roller, pencil, or a long key. All loose threads are removed, also the selvedged edges. The length of the bandages varies from 2 to 15 yards, depending on the area to be bandaged.

Common pins should never be used in securing a bandage, but safety pins, or else the end is divided in two and tied. *The rubber roller bandage* or s.c. Esmarch's bandage can be sterilized by boiling or soaking in some antiseptic solution, and is mostly used in cases of amputations to arrest hæmorrhages. It can be used non-sterilized in cases of emergencies, or when it is used as a supporter for hernia or varicose veins.

*The Sterile Roller Bandages* are used in all operative cases, and sterilized by steam heat.

*Medicated Roller Bandages* are generally made from flannel or gauze, the most common being borated, bichloride, and salicylated bandages.

*Borated Bandages* are made as follows: Tear the cotton flannel in desired widths and lengths, boil in 1 per cent. Soda Sol. for half an hour, wring out from Sol. by aid of a sterile stupe-wringer, place in boiling Boric Acid Sol., 3ii to oj, boil for half an hour, wring dry, and dry bandages between folds of sterile sheets, roll them loosely, and store in sterile, air-tight jars. These bandages are mostly used as a protector for the skin in cases of fractures before application of plaster of Paris bandages.

*Bichloride Bandages* are first boiled in Salt Sol., 1 per cent., then soaked in 1 in 500 Bichloride Sol. over night, finally wrung out from Sol., dried between folds of sterile sheets, and stored in sterile air-tight jars.

These bandages are used for the same purpose as the plain sterile ones.

*Salicylated Bandages* are first boiled in weak ammonia water, ½ per cent., then soaked in a Salicylic Acid Sol., 3iv to oj alcohol, wrung from Sol., and dried between folds of sterile sheets, stored in air-tight jars, and used in cases of skin diseases and operative cases. These bandages should be made from bleached gauze.

*Plaster of Paris Roller Bandages* are best made of bleached gauze as follows. Cut bandages the desired width and length, rub them well with good dental plaster of Paris that is perfectly dry. Roll bandages loosely, and store in air-tight jars. In moist climates it is advisable to dry the plaster of Paris in an oven before using. A nurse should always protect her hands with gloves when making these bandages. They are used in cases of fractures, and will set very quickly if the plaster is good.

Immediately before use the nurse should soak them in very warm Salt or 1 per cent. Alum Sol., she should also have some dry loose plaster of Paris at hand. Any strong acid, such as muriatic or nitric acid will remove quickly the plaster caked on floors, basins, or rubber sheets.

*T Bandages* are used mostly in operations on the organs of generation, or the rectum. They are made in the shape of a T, the size depending on the patient. The horizontal piece is pinned round the waist, and the longitudinal piece goes round the perineum, and is then pinned to the piece round the waist. If the subject be a man a slit is made in the perineal strap, through which the penis is brought.

*A Double T Bandage* is used in operations for hernia, or Alexander's operations, and consists of one horizontal and two longitudinal pieces TT, one brought round each leg and secured to the piece round the waist. These bandages are made from three double unbleached domestic or Canton flannel.

*Many Tail Bandages* are two, three, four, six, and eight tailed bandages. Two tailed for fracture of the lower jaw, three tailed as retractor in amputations, four tailed in laparotomies on children, six and eight tailed in laparotomies on adults, in operations on the chest, and in cases of pneumonia, the sizes varying according to the needs of the patient. Scultatu's bandage is a many tail bandage, where the back piece is prolonged, forming adherent perineal straps.

The many tail bandages are made of unbleached domestic, or Canton flannel, as follows:

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