

taining five sponges, making the square twenty-five. This completes the *fourth* and *fifth* counts. Then before doing up the sponges in the pocket-form package, they are again counted *individually* one way of the square, and in groups of "two plus three" the other, making the *sixth* and *seventh* counts.

When the operation is ready to begin the sponge slate is marked plainly with chalk, twenty-five, and the nurse who holds the sponge tray is given a package, with the label *securely pinned on*, though it is open (a precaution taken so as to be able to identify the responsible person should a mistake be discovered). The sponges are drawn forward in *groups of five* with sterile forceps. The sterile sponges are handled only by the surgeon and his first assistant. The soiled ones are received in a small tray and transferred immediately to a large one, where they are placed in rows *each containing five*, until there are *five* such rows. They are then counted both ways of the square and removed. In the meantime another package has been given to the nurse, and twenty-five recorded on the slate for it when it is given but the *first twenty-five is not checked off until the actual twenty-five soiled sponges have been counted twice* and thus are ready to be removed. Each succeeding package is handled in the same way, the record being made when the sponges are handed to the nurse, the previous record being checked off only when the twenty-five soiled sponges are in the possession of the assistant nurse. The slate is in plain sight, likewise the tray of soiled sponges, so that at a glance the surgeon can verify the nurse's counts if he wishes so to do.

Several practical points are claimed for this system:

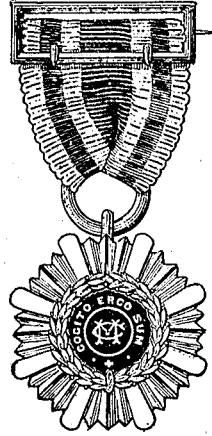
1. It is simple.
2. It is accurate.
3. It fits every nurse to take charge of a sponge count—not a few specially trained ones.
4. It is as practical in private houses as in hospitals.
5. It is always ready.
6. It has stood the test of years of use, inspiring both surgeons and nurses with confidence in its use.
7. The many counts are performed while the actual work is going on, so that there is no time lost even in so important a detail.

*The Trained Nurse.*

### The King's Hospital Fund.

The King has intimated his pleasure that the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London, established by him when Prince of Wales, shall henceforth be known as King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

### The Matrons' Council.



A crowded and interested meeting of the Matrons' Council took place at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on Thursday, November 21st, at 4 p.m. The President, Miss Isla Stewart, was in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the following Report was read and adopted, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to place it upon the minutes.

#### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

##### *The Committee on Army Nursing Re-organization.*

Since the last meeting of the Matrons' Council the Report of the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for War to consider the re-organization of the Army Medical and Army Nursing Services has been made public. It is most satisfactory to find that the suggestions made in the Memorandum presented by the Deputation from the Matrons' Council which was received by the Secretary of State for War at the War Office, on April 2nd of this year, have been substantially adopted.

For the supervision of the Army Medical Services an Advisory Board has been appointed, which amongst other duties will exercise "a general control over the Nursing Service" and will report to the Secretary of State for War upon "all matters concerned with medicine, surgery, sanitation and epidemic diseases as they affect the military services," and upon the provision and equipment of hospitals and "generally upon whatever concerns the well-being of the sick and wounded." On this Board the Matron-in-Chief of the new Military Nursing Service is to have a seat. The Secretary of State for War is to be congratulated upon recognizing that nursing is an important part of the medical treatment of sick and wounded soldiers.

The new Nursing Service (an amalgamation of the present Army Nursing and Indian Army Nursing Services) to be known as Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, will be placed under the immediate control of the Queen as President and of a Nursing Board constituted as follows:—President, Her Majesty Queen Alexandra; Chairman, the Director General Army Medical Service, two members of the Advisory Board, the Matron-in-Chief of the Nursing Service, three Matrons of civil hospitals with medical schools, a representative of the India Office, and two members nominated by the Queen, thus the essential principle of government in part by members of their own profession is recognized in the formation of this nursing service.

A comparative table of the Matrons' Council Memorandum and the Committee's Report shows that the Council's suggestions as to the formation of a Nursing

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