

GYNECOLOGIC NURSING.

The introductory chapter in this section deals with the causes of disease, the peculiarities of patients, and the management necessary. Then follows a chapter on the examination of patients, and another on postures of the patient for examination and operation. Local treatment, chiefly by pessaries, is dealt with, and the methods of administering vaginal douches are described at length. Then follows the general care of gynecologic patient, gynecologic operations, including (1) those in which the peritoneal cavity is not opened, (2) those in which the peritoneal cavity is opened, the immediate preparation for operation, including the sterilisation of the hands of physicians and nurses, the preliminary preparations of the abdomen and vagina, and the final preparations. In the United States it is usual for the operator to wear a sterilised suit, and this is pinned in a sterile towel and placed in his dressing-room. Nurses in the operating-room also wear sterilised dresses. The discipline of the operating-room and the training of nurses in operative work is described.

The chapter on "After the Operation" describes the various offices to be performed for the patient, and the emergencies which may arise. We do not agree with the author that a nurse who takes charge of a case of abdominal section "must expect to be without sleep for the first twenty-four hours, and in an emergency for thirty-six hours or more, after the operation." Nurses are but human, and need rest and relief from the mental strain of nursing a case of this nature. We have found by experience that the best arrangement for the nursing of these cases is to give them two special nurses, one on day and the other on night duty, each taking twelve hours' duty. The change in no way disturbs the patient, and the nurse gets her proper rest.

Very useful is the chapter in the appendix on the preparation of surgical supplies. Indeed, the whole book is well written and practical, and we confidently commend it.

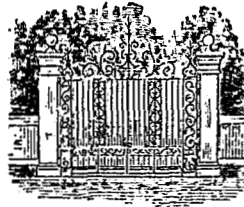
In conclusion, we must draw attention to the sympathetic preface, in which the author states that the "book has been prepared for the training-schools of the Jefferson and Philadelphia Hospitals, in both of which schools the writer gives instruction. It is offered to them, and to those nurses with whom the writer has worked, with the hope that it will prove useful to them, and as an acknowledgment of their kind and efficient services."

He adds:—"In preparing this book much valuable help has been given by Miss Ellen V. Hayes, Chief Nurse of the Jefferson Maternity, and Miss Mary E. Englar, formerly Clinic Nurse. The Dietary has been kindly furnished by Miss A. B. O'Laughlin, Dietician in the Jefferson Medical College Hospital. The writer is indebted to Miss M. E. Smith, Chief Nurse of the Philadelphia Hospital, and Miss S. C. Hearle, Directress for Nurses in the Jefferson Medical College Hospital, for data regarding the preparation of surgical supplies. He has profited largely by the experience and practical suggestions of Miss Margaret Russell, for seven years Chief Nurse of the Jefferson Maternity."

American medical men do not apparently consider it below their dignity to ask for information from experienced nurses as to practical nursing details, or to acknowledge the assistance thus received.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Lady Curzon, the wife of the Viceroy, has received the Kaiser-i-Hind medal of the First Class for public service in India. The news will be received with gratification both in England and America. Lady Curzon was the only woman who received any honour at the Delhi Durbar.

Recently a number of changes have taken place in the medical and surgical staff of the Wolverhampton and District Hospital for Women. The list of newly-appointed surgeons is one that will give every satisfaction to the subscribers, and includes a lady practitioner, Miss Ina Lockhead McNeill, who with her sister is practising at Wolverhampton.

Miss Frances Taylor, a sister of Mrs. George Cadbury, of Bournville, and a well-known and highly-respected member of the Society of Friends, has been asked by the Imperial authorities in South Africa to take charge of the Government orphanage recently established at Pretoria for the reception of Boer children who lost their fathers in the late war.

Lady Guendolen Ramsden has an admirable article in the *Nineteenth Century*: "Is Society Worse than it Was?" in which she comes to the conclusion that anyway little if any progress has been made during the past century in sobriety, manners, and refinement where women are concerned. She writes:—

"Certainly among men it is no longer thought a fine thing to drink too much. Insobriety happens very seldom, and, when it does, is considered a disgrace. But women drink far more than they did fifty years ago, not only wine, but spirits and liqueurs. . . . Perhaps the now common practice of smoking cigarettes habitually may tend to increase this evil.

"A slight headache, often caused by racking about after too many pleasures, is made excuse for taking anti-pyrene or some other soothing medicine, with results disastrous to heart and nerves."

As to manners, Lady Guendolen Ramsden thinks they have improved far less in Society than among those from whom good manners are least expected:

"Good manners are often met with in a 'bus or third-class railway-carriage. There you are welcomed with kind hands stretched out to lift your bird-cage or band-box. It is surprisingly rare to meet with common civility in a first-class railway-carriage. For instance, going by trains to garden-parties near London, without any encumbrances of birds or boxes, you are unwillingly, ungraciously, permitted to squeeze into a seat, the other occupants of the carriage making it very clear that, because you happen to be unknown to them, no civility is to be expected on their part."

Lady Guendolen Ramsden condemns the toadying of the vulgar rich by people who ought to know better:—

"Now and then they discover new rich people, and hastily introduce them into the fashionable circle, without the least caring whether they possess anything besides money, nor how this was acquired. They stand

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