

with a trolley running along the ceiling, so that, after it is attached, it can very easily be moved from bed to bed for the entire length of the ward.

The Teaching of Surgical Technic by Operative Demonstration.

Writing in the *American Journal of Nursing* Miss Elizabeth Ketchum says:—As the methods of teaching in training-schools are at present being much discussed, a brief description of a recent demonstration given by Dr. George E. Brewer in the Syms Amphitheatre of the Roosevelt Hospital, New York, to the pupils of the Training-School may be of some interest.

Having previously delivered a most practical and instructive lecture on the germ theory of wound infection, asepsis, and antiseptics, the suggestion that it should be followed by a clinic exclusively for nurses was at once adopted, Dr. Brewer kindly consenting to operate. Eight o'clock in the evening was the hour chosen, making it possible for all nurses on day duty to attend. Two simple cases were selected to demonstrate the difference between the aseptic and antiseptic methods. The surgeon was assisted by one member of the house staff and four nurses, graduates of the school. The nurse in charge was responsible, as usual, for all sutures and ligatures, the second passed instruments or held retractors, the third was responsible for the sponges, and the fourth gave the anæsthetic.

While the patient was being anæsthetised the method of hand disinfection was demonstrated, and the reason for each step in the procedure carefully explained. Then followed the final cleansing of the area of operation, which, in the first case, was for the removal of a small tumour in the gluteal muscle. Censors were appointed by Dr. Brewer from among those who had had some training in operating-room work to report at once any apparent error in the technic of the operator or his assistants. Attention was drawn to the different tissues as they came into view, and the tumour—which appeared benign and afterwards proved so—was quickly removed, sutured, and a sterile dressing applied.

During the operation the different materials—such as catgut, silkworm gut, silk, packing, &c.—were described and the importance of perfect asepsis in their preparation strongly emphasised.

In the second case, which was a tubercular ankle, disinfectants such as peroxide of hydrogen and formalin were used and a formalin dressing applied.

Between the two operations, while the second patient was being anæsthetised, cultures were taken from the gloves, dressings, towels, and suture material, demonstrating one of the means used to ensure perfect technic in the nurses' preparation.

The Support of the Medical Profession Needed.

In the supplement to last week's *British Medical Journal* the two Bills for the State Registration of Nurses are printed. It is to be hoped that the Association will use its influence to have the public protected from the horde of inefficient women now posing as trained nurses, and also to help to define a reasonable curriculum of education for nurses.

Nursing Echoes.

**** All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.**



The article on "Army Nursing" in this issue will bring to the notice of our readers the new conditions of appointment in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. We understand that there are at present some vacancies in the Service, so if anyone knows any specially excellent and well-trained nurses, who would do credit to their profession if appointed, let her advise them to place their services at the disposal of their country, and to make application to the Matron-in-Chief at once.

The sister of the Tsar, the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, a lady of strong philanthropic sympathies, is stated to be about to start for Manchuria as superintendent of the Russian Red Cross Society work at the front.

An International Red Cross Society has been formed at Shanghai to assist the wounded on both sides and to relieve refugees. The Chinese community, who are represented on the Committee by several prominent merchants, have subscribed liberally, being much exercised by the deplorable position of their fellow-countrymen in Manchuria, not only in the interior, but in places on the seaboard, whence the Russians refuse to permit them to depart. It has been decided, with the help of the British missionaries, whose services were volunteered, to establish a hospital at Niuchwang and to organise relief work in the interior. The chief difficulty in the latter arrangement is the absence of transport facilities for women and children. The Committee hopes to obtain the protection and support of the Russian authorities.

No information is to hand as to what steps our own Central Red Cross Committee are taking to help the war funds in Russia and Japan.

An excellent institution is the Flannel Shirt Club, of which Miss Gethen, Stanley House, Bow Road, is Hon. Secretary, and Dr. Ethel Lamport Treasurer. Each working member subscribes a shilling a year, and undertakes to provide at least one flannel shirt annually, and hon. members subscribe half-a-crown a year and provide at least two flannel shirts annually. The number of shirts provided last year was 325, which were sent to

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