

room a card is sent with her, with details as to time of catheterisation, amount of urine, stimulants, normal salt solution, hypodermic injections, &c., &c.; the bed is raised from 12 to 24 in. at the head, which is more generally adopted now than raising the foot; after this she is left undisturbed for several hours. With regard to the treatment, which, of course varies according to the attending surgeon, the subsequent dressing of this, and, indeed, of all wounds, is done on the strictest principles of aseptic surgery, and with as many precautions as observed in the operating-room. All dressings, towels, &c., are sterilised every time before using. A dainty little means of absorbing pus from hidden corners or drying in between stitches is the "tooth-pick fluff"—small fluffs of absorbent cotton, wound tightly round the ends of wooden tooth-picks, and sterilised in small jars. Adhesive plaster is sterilised by placing in jars with formalin, which percolates through it. No dressing is unfastened until the wound is ready to receive it, and only each item as required, and then handed with sterile forceps. Douche bags used for irrigating are wrapped in dressing towels, and boiled before being used, and left covered until required, and then handled only by sterile hands. No unsterile water or measure glasses are by any means permitted.

In fastening on abdominal dressings, the strapping, instead of being fastened right across from side to side, is adhered to the skin on each side, well back, and ends in the centre, within about 3 in. from the wound; these ends are then turned back on themselves about 1½ in., and a hole cut and tapes fastened in each of the ends, which are then tied as tightly as required across the pads; this saves tearing the plaster away from the skin when the wound needs re-dressing, and it is a very simple matter to insert fresh sterile tapes as these become soiled.

When not actually engaged in the operating-room itself, the nurses belonging for the time being to this department are employed in preparing the various articles they use—dressings, making gowns, laparotomy sheets, fluffs, jackets, mending rubber gloves, preparing sutures in chromicised, cumolised, and plain forms, and in their various strengths, according to the time required before absorption takes place; taking cultures, and, in fact, anything and everything that admits for its ownership the operating-room.

Truly the crusade against the "mighty atom" is carried on in a manner which admits of no risks, and with a vigilance, energy, and determination that seem to be the keynote of the average American character, and which cannot help but produce the highest admiration.

On Wednesday afternoon Princess Christian presented a number of Royal Red Crosses to nurses at a garden party given in her honour at Pietermaritzburg.

## 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.*



It is worthy of note that when the Bishop of Ripon and Mrs. Boyd Carpenter arrived at New York last week, Mrs. Carpenter, who was seriously ill, was removed at once from the steamer to the New York Hospital. Here, in its well-ordered private wards, the patient will receive every care and attention. But if the converse case had occurred, imagine the commotion at this side before a bed had been secured in a nursing home for the patient, and the uncertainty as to whether the home, when found, was satisfactory or not!

We might well take a lesson from our American cousins as to the way in which provision is made in their hospitals for the requirements of the sick of all classes.

Letters continue to appear in the press as to the hardship and annoyance caused to patients in the Middlesex Hospital by its chiming clock. One former patient writes: "Never shall I forget the nerve-shattering and sleep-destroying effect of that instrument of torture. I mentioned it to the Sister-in-Charge, the house surgeon, the clergyman, and all the consolation I received was that I would 'get used to it.' Directly I got out of the hospital I wrote to the Secretary pointing out the great drawback the clock is to quiet sleep, and received a curt and rude reply. But I am grieved to find the Board of Management still inflict this abominable cruelty upon their helpless patients."

Another former patient in this institution writes: "I, too, received a curt and rude reply after placing certain facts before them (the Board) which should in common justice have had the fullest investigation. . . . The sooner the hospitals are placed under municipal control, the better will it be for the poor inmates."

This opinion appears to be gaining ground; the attitude adopted towards the public by the officials of certain hospitals would not be tolerated in any other public institution, and is, indeed, a survival of mediæval manners and methods. We have no efficient and independent Central Hospital Board, such as that proposed by Mr. C. S. Loch, the energetic and far-sighted Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, such as would inspire confidence in the public mind.

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