

The Alcohol Sweat.

Miss R. Victoria Rose describes in the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast* the alcohol sweat for nephritic cases, as given at the Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago. The articles needed for the treatment are five: hot blankets, two long sheets, a bottle of 70 per cent. alcohol, and seven bricks that have been heated in an oven slowly and thoroughly from one to one and a-half hours. If in a gas oven, one hour is sufficient. The bed and patient are prepared thus: First spread under the patient a blanket, and then the rubber sheet, and over that another blanket. Remove the patient's nightclothes and spread over her two blankets, turning back the hanging portions on both sides and at the foot. By doing this you get four layers of blanket on which to place the bricks. Spread the last rubber sheet over these blankets, and then get the hot bricks. Inclose the first in heavy ticking bags, draw the strings, and place on a tray to carry to the bedside.

Begin on one side to place the bricks. Lift up partially the top rubber sheet and place three of the bricks; then pour over each sufficient alcohol and cover immediately by turning back over them the hanging portion of the lower blankets and rubber sheet, lowering the top rubber sheet and tucking well under. Repeat the same on the other side, and place the remaining brick at the foot in the same way. The bricks must be placed cautiously so as not to touch the patient. Tuck everything well near the neck and shoulders to form an air-tight chamber. Finally, cover all with two blankets and the white spread, making the patient look as if only in a well-made bed.

Ice cloths are applied constantly to the head, and plenty of hot lemonade is given frequently, even if the patient must be persuaded. The pulse is watched carefully, at the temporal artery, of course, and always take note of reaction or perspiration. The length of the time required for the sweat depends entirely on the patient. I had a patient who could not remain longer than fifteen minutes.

When removing the pack, first take out the bricks and dry the patient with a hot bath towel, and then remove the rubber sheets and damp blankets. Then leave the patient for an hour between warm, dry blankets. Before leaving the patient, apply friction with bath towel and give an alcohol rub.

New Method of Sharpening Surgical Instruments.

A new material, "Onyxite," bids fair to replace all other methods of sharpening surgical instruments. Knives sharpened with it can be sterilised by boiling without injuring the keen edge. The material is a dark paste, and is used by applying to a strap. Some special care in the sharpening process is necessary, but the result is sharp knives that retain their edge better than under any other method so far discovered.

The care of knives is a great anxiety to many a theatre nurse who realises her responsibility in keeping knives sterile and at the same time knows the importance of preserving the sharp edge. To such the new material will be welcome.

Appointments.

SISTER-MATRON.

King's College Hospital, London.—Miss Mary E. Ray has been appointed Sister-Matron at King's College Hospital, London, in succession to Miss Katherine Monk. She was trained at King's and held the position of Ward Sister there for four years, so that she is well acquainted with the details of the work of the important position upon which she now enters. She has also had experience of hospital management as Assistant Superintendent at the General Infirmary, Leeds, for three years, and as Matron of the County Hospital, Lincoln, which post she has held for seven years.

MATRONS.

Guildford Isolation Hospital.—Miss Sarah Dutton has been appointed Matron at the Isolation Hospital of the Guildford, Godalming, and Woking Joint Hospital Board at Woodbridge, Guildford. She was trained at the Fever Hospital, Manchester, and has held the position of Matron at the St. Alban's Infectious Hospital and at the hospital under the control of the Croydon Rural District Council.

David Lewis Epileptic Colony.—Miss Florence M. Smith has been appointed Matron of the David Lewis Epileptic Colony. She was trained at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, and had experience of district nursing in connection with the Scottish Branch of Queen Victoria's Institute for Nurses, Edinburgh. Her other positions have been Matron of the Cottage Hospital, Keswick, Assistant Matron at the Roxburgh District Asylum, and Matron of the Convalescent Home connected with Ancoats Hospital.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.—Miss M. F. Gordon has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Shoreditch Infirmary.—Miss L. A. Houston has been appointed Assistant Matron at the St. Leonard's Infirmary, Shoreditch. She was trained at the Westminster Hospital and at the Children's Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and has held the positions of Sister at the West Ham Infirmary and of Matron at the Ebbw Vale Hospital.

SISTERS.

The Hospital, Dover.—Miss Ida F. Howe has been appointed Sister at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover. She received her training at the City of Dublin Hospital, and has held the position of Charge Nurse at the Bromley Cottage Hospital. She has also had experience in private nursing.

General Infirmary, Stafford.—Miss Edith Parkes has been appointed Sister at the General Infirmary, Stafford. She received her training at the East Lancashire Infirmary, Blackburn, and has held the position of Sister at the Hospital, King's Lynn.

General Infirmary, Macclesfield.—Miss Ida Freakley has been appointed Sister at the General Infirmary, Macclesfield. She received her training at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, the Wolverhampton and District Hospital for Women, and the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, W.

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