

The chromium sulphate liquid is prepared thus:

Chromic acid 4 grains.
Distilled water 240 "

Add to this as much sulphurous acid (P.B. solution) as gives a green colour. If more is added the colour becomes blue, which shows that rather too much sulphurous acid has been used. It is well to reserve a few drops of the chromic acid solution, to be used after the blue colour has just appeared and restore it to green. Then enough distilled water is added to bring the green liquid up to 480 grains. Then add the sublimate liquid.

"The catgut is kept for 24 hours in the preparing liquid and is then dried on the stretch. (N.B.—It is essential that the CrO_3 and SO_2 solutions be mixed before the HgCl_2 solution is added.)

"Catgut prepared in this way remains actively antiseptic in its substance for an indefinite period, as was shown by the following experiment. Some slender hanks prepared three years previously, weighing 207 grains, chopped into short segments, were placed in a small mortar and treated with enough distilled water to cover them, 2,000 grains being required for the purpose. The gut was then pressed firmly with a pestle and the same was afterwards done three times at intervals of about three hours. The gut and water were then transferred to a stoppered bottle for 17 hours, when the liquid was poured off and filtered, being clear and almost colourless. The germicidal property of the infusion was carefully tested by the late Dr. Allan Macfadyen. In spite of the large amount of water used in preparing it, he found that it destroyed the streptococcus pyogenes in a quarter of an hour; when diminished to half its bulk by evaporation *in vacuo* it killed staphylococcus pyogenes aureus in half an hour; and when further reduced by one-half it deprived the resisting spores of anthrax of vitality in two hours, although the amount of the liquid was still about twice that of the catgut to which it was applied."

After describing the experiments conducted by Dr. Macfadyen, Lord Lister continues:—

"But while the substance of the catgut is thus not only aseptic but powerfully antiseptic, its dry surface is liable to contamination by contact with septic material, and it is essential that before being used it should be washed with some trustworthy germicidal liquid.

"My practice has been to put the catgut, like the instruments, in 1 to 20 solution of carbolic acid about a quarter of an hour before the operation is begun. Any of the catgut that remains unused upon the reel may be afterwards kept in a similar solution for any length of time without disadvantage.

"The essential precaution of purifying the surface of the catgut is, I fear, sometimes overlooked, the result being occasional suppuration attributed to defect in the ligature, while it is really the fault of the surgeon."

The point as to purifying the surface of the catgut is one in which nurses are concerned. If responsible for ligatures and sutures they should carefully preserve them from contamination.

Appointments.

MATRONS.

Herman de Stern Convalescent Home, Felixtowe.—Miss Lecks, Sister of Sophia Ward, London Hospital, has been appointed Matron. She succeeds Miss Wamsley, who was trained at the same hospital.

Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin.—Miss Alice Reeves has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, where she has held the position of Sister for many years.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Norwich Isolation Hospital.—Miss Flora Morrison has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Paisley Infirmary, and at the Aberdeen Isolation Hospital, and has held the position of Theatre Sister at the Paisley Infirmary, and of Sister at the Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow. She has also been Night Superintendent and temporary Assistant Matron at the Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield.

SISTERS.

County Hospital, York.—Miss Annie Sly has been appointed Sister. She was trained at Leicester Infirmary, where she has held the position of Holiday Sister. She has also had experience of private nursing.

Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.—Miss Hill has been appointed Sister of the Theatre and Male Surgical Ward. She was trained at the Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary.

Strangers' Hospital, Rio de Janeiro.—Miss Beatrice C. Empson has been appointed Sister. She was trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, where she held the position of Sister for two years, and subsequently gained experience in the nursing of tropical diseases at the London School of Tropical Medicine. While working as a member of the Army Nursing Service Reserve she obtained her midwifery training in the Military Families' Hospital, Devonport, and passed the examination of the London Obstetrical Society, after which she went to St. Monica's Children's Hospital, Brondesbury, as Sister in Charge. In 1903 she was sent by the Colonial Nursing Association to Northern Nigeria, and did two tours of service there, and subsequently was appointed Matron of the Hospital, St. Vincent, under the same Association. She is a Certified Midwife.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

Medway Union Infirmary.—Miss Florence B. Bussell has been appointed Superintendent Nurse. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, and has had experience of infectious nursing under the Metropolitan Asylums' Board, and has also worked at Charing Cross Hospital.

NIGHT SUPERINTENDENT.

St. Leonard's Infirmary, Shoreditch.—Miss Elizabeth Mercer has been appointed Superintendent Night Nurse, to which position she has been promoted from that of Ward Sister in the same institution.

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