

NURSING ECHOES.

means of hot air baths, or hot bottles and blankets; electric blankets may sometimes be used, and thus encourage excretion of the toxins by way of the skin surface. If the blood pressure be very high, the nurse may be required to assist the doctor with venesection. The nurse will probably be required to take the blood pressure four-hourly, as it is an important indication of the patient's condition.

Later, if the patient's condition improves, the kidneys should be well flushed with copious fluids, the object of all the treatment being the speedy elimination of the toxins from the body to put as little strain as possible on the overworked kidneys. The nurse must very carefully and accurately measure the fluid intake and output, and a daily Esbach's albumin estimation test must be taken. The patient's pulse, temperature and respiration must be taken four-hourly. When a patient has eclampsia she should on no account be left unattended, and should have in attendance a quiet, calm nurse. A well-meaning, noisy, bustling person will most probably do more harm than good, particularly if the doctor is treating his patient on the Stroganoff method, that is to say, controlling the patient during a seizure by the administration of chloroform and keeping her in a quiet, darkened room under the influence of morphia, and chloral and bromide, given rectally, on the supposition that any noise or movement may stimulate another convulsion. When this method is used, the patient is anæsthetised while any treatment, such as colonic lavage, etc., is being carried out, therefore it is most necessary for the nurse to work quickly and noiselessly in the darkened room. Eclampsia requires the utmost concentrated attention of the doctor and nurse if a fatal termination is to be prevented. The patient is usually left with one or both kidneys damaged, and should she be delivered safely, she should be given clear and adequate advice with regard to future pregnancies, and the necessity of obtaining very early ante-natal care. The importance of this cannot be impressed too deeply upon her.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST ANÆSTHETIC EXPLOSIONS IN OPERATING THEATRES.

The Minister of Health has issued to the Local Authorities in England and Wales an important Memorandum dealing with operating theatres in which electrical apparatus is being used by the surgeon in the presence of an inflammable anæsthetic.

The reason for this step is that the use of electrical apparatus is becoming common and that the introduction of artificial ventilating systems into operating theatres has produced conditions more favourable than formerly for the production of "static electricity."

In the covering letter sent out with the Memorandum it is stated that further enquiries will continue to be made into this subject; meanwhile the authorities concerned will no doubt take steps to ensure that the precautions recommended in the Memorandum are adopted as far as possible in all institutions under their control, and it is suggested that copies of the Memorandum should be distributed to the authorities of all Voluntary Hospitals, Nursing Homes and other establishments in the Authority's area in which operations are performed.

The Memorandum is obtainable from the Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2. Price 1d. net.

We learn that a right royal Christmas was spent in our hospitals and charitable institutions throughout the land. Managers and staff all gave their uttermost farthing to provide a real "Jubilee" time. Toys, gifts, flowers and sumptuous fare were provided for all. Carols were sweetly rendered, and as usual the medical interns excelled themselves in providing all the fun of the fair. All now past and gone; and the New Year with us with innumerable demands, let us meet it with open hands and hearts.

The Editor has to thank hundreds of friends scattered all over the world for their lovely cards of greeting at Christmas and so many kind wishes for a Happy New Year. She anticipates a very happy time helping to organise the Quadrennial International Congress of Nurses to meet in London early in July, 1937, when it is to be hoped the flower of the profession will flock to London from far and near to take part in a rousing Conference for the betterment of mankind. There must be nothing narrow or timorous about this assembly of the world's nurses. We hope they will come primed with records of progress in nursing procedures, with demands for the adoption of forward movements of education and organisation, and stamp "London, 1937," as a glorious event and memory for years to come.

Oh! dear, we have quite runaway from Christmas greetings. To comment on all the lovely cards would fill the *B.J.N.* To name a few, the Lac de Genève from I.C.N. Headquarters, exquisitely blue, the snowy mountains climbing into the empyrean; greetings from the silvery Washington Monument, golden shafts reflected in surrounding waters, with Japanese cherry blossoms, rosy pink, in glorious bloom; the illuminated Capitol at Washington; the foot-hills of the Rockies and other Canadian snow scenes. How serene the Sea of Galilee near Bethsaida! South Africa quotes: "The Fruits of Friendship are gathered from the Tree of Kindness and Goodwill." "Affectionate greetings from Yale," from India, the Transvaal; "Joyeux Noël" from Belgium; France, Holland, Sweden, Norway (a most sweet message), Poland, Japan, China, Philippines, Greece; and from dear old and new friends at home.

This year's card from the Nightingale Training School at St. Thomas's Hospital is a gem of historic worth: "Before All Things, Dearest Brethren, Let God be Loved, Then Your Neighbour," is quoted from the Charge of St. Augustine to his Canons and Canonesses when he founded his Order in the year 395. In the centre is an etching of Norman work in Southwark Cathedral, originally the Priory Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Southwark. The Infirmarium adopted St. Thomas as its Patron Saint after he was canonised in the year 1173. It then became known as St. Thomas's Hospital. This card, of course, will be carefully preserved in the History Section of the B.C.N.

We associate H.R.H. The Duchess of York with the smiles of health and happiness, and the report of her illness diagnosed as influenzal pneumonia, at her country home, Royal Lodge, Windsor, caused serious concern. That with care she is now convalescent, will, we may hope,

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