

Matrons in Council.

WHAT IS A TRAINED NURSE?

IS A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION ADVISABLE; IF SO, IN WHAT SUBJECTS?



Mrs. Walter Spencer, in her letter published in this column last week, alludes to the practical examination which each Probationer, after three years' training, passed before she was granted a Certificate, during her residence at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The examination consisted of six questions, and various handiwork, such as splint padding, bandage making, etc. We have a copy of a Gold Medallist Paper before us, which we print below, as it may prove of use to those Matrons conducting practical examinations.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

Questions on Practical Nursing.

No. 1.—Write out the Scale of Measures used for administering medicines, etc.

Most simply answered thus:—

20 grains	gr. xx	=	1 scruple	℥ j
3 scruples	℥ iij	=	1 drachm	ʒ j
8 drachms	ʒ viii	=	1 ounce	ʒ j
16 ounces	ʒ xvi	=	1 pound	lb j
60 minims	ʒ lx	=	1 fluid drachm	fl ʒ j
8 fluid drachms	fl ʒ viii	=	1 fluid ounce	fl ʒ j
20 fluid ounces	fl ʒ xx	=	1 pint	℔ j
8 pints	℔ viii	=	1 gallon	G j

No. 2.—Give the names of the different *Syringes*, their uses, and the quantities generally used for the following Enemas—Purgative and Nutritive—and of what the liquid should consist.

Syringes are usually made of vulcanite india-rubber, brass or glass. Those in general use are as follows:—

1. The large *pump syringe* for ample purgative enemata.
2. *Higginson's* india-rubber syringe for administering a douche, and with metal end for simple purgative enemata.
3. The *siphon*, for washing out internal cavities, where large quantities are required.
4. The ordinary *brass* syringe, various sizes, for cleansing wounds.
5. *Aural* brass syringe with fine nozzle.
6. Small *glass* syringe for administering lotions, etc.
7. The *india-rubber ball* syringe, generally used for nutrient and sedative enemata.

8. Syringe with valve, two india-rubber tubes, and stopcock, for washing out the bladder.

9. *Hypodermic* syringe, for injecting under the skin.

For a Purgative enema, one pint is the quantity, unless more is ordered.

"Simple" enema consists of one pint of *warm* water with one ounce of soap dissolved.

Castor oil enema: give simple enema with half or one ounce of castor oil.

Olive oil enema: give from one to two pints of *warm* olive oil.

Turpentine enema: give simple enema, half an ounce of turpentine to the pint.

For a Nutritive enema, give from two to six ounces, never more; the materials consist of milk, beef-tea, essence, eggs, arrowroot, and brandy; any of these may be mixed, and given as required.

Sometimes when enemata are badly retained, it is necessary to add a *little* starch; when irritating to the bowel, a *little* opium.

Starch enema is administered to stop diarrhœa; starch made stiff with *boiling* water, to the amount of four ounces, allowed to cool, add liquid *extract* of opium, the number of minims directed, usually from fifteen to twenty drops.

For a Peptonized enema, take half a pint of beef essence, three eggs, and eleven grains of Bicarbonate of Soda. Boil them together gently for half an hour; rub through a fine sieve, and add half a drachm of liquor Pancreaticus to each enema of two ounces.

No. 3.—How do you make a plain linseed poultice, one of mustard, bread, bran, and charcoal; and for what diseases are they respectively used?

A poultice is an application adapted to afford moisture, and generally warmth, through the medium of some soft subject.

To make a poultice, first pull the tow, or prepare linen or lint the size required.

Linseed meal poultice: heat the bowl and spatula with *boiling* water, refill the bowl with the desired quantity of *boiling* water, and stir in *quickly* and vigorously linseed meal until the consistency is such that it will spread easily and not stick when applied. Spread on to the tow or lint, and skim over the surface of poultice with warmed vaseline or olive oil; twenty to thirty minims of opium is sometimes added to alleviate pain.

These poultices are used for cleansing wounds, inducing suppuration, reducing swellings, and relieving pain in any part of the body when inflammation arises: erysipelas, etc.

Mustard Poultice is made by stirring from one to three tablespoonsful of flour of mustard into the



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