

even a vaginal douche, without the express directions of the doctor. Precaution is not so necessary in those cases in which the rectum is not involved; but even in these, it is better, as a general rule, to postpone the administration of an aperient for several days, and to minimise its spasmodic effect upon the rectal walls, by the administration either of a glycerine suppository, or of a small glycerine enema.

When wire sutures have been used, there may arise some little difficulty with the shot and coil; the latter becoming imbedded in the skin, or the former setting up irritation or even little ulcers, by their pressure. It is therefore important to avoid such accidents by surrounding the extremities of the wire and the shot with lint, and so separating these from the surface of the skin. When silk or catgut has been employed, as many operators now-a-days prefer, there is, of course, less liability to this accident. But, on the other hand, these sutures will be retained for much longer than when wire has been employed, for the reason that, especially when an absorbent material like silk-worm gut is used, the track of the suture does not become inflamed, whereas after a few days, the wire stitch may form a regular sinus. But, partly from its absorbent qualities, the use of catgut is usually accompanied by a slight serous discharge from the needle holes, and it is therefore essential that the Nurse should, in such cases, use plenty of dusting powder, either iodoform or some other absorbent material, in order to keep the parts absolutely dry.

The necessity for perfect muscular rest on the part of the patient has been previously insisted upon, and it has to be maintained at least until the stitches are withdrawn. Consequently, although the patients are not compelled to maintain the supine position entirely, as is necessary in some gynaecological cases, but are able without detriment to lay upon one or the other side, the enforced quietude makes it essential that very great care should be taken to avoid bed-sores. And it is worth while to remember the fact, that these cases are usually operated upon, because of their inability to take ordinary exercise, or to bear an ordinary amount of exertion. In other words they are people, usually, who are, to begin with, out of health, whose appetite is defective, and who are therefore not only thinner than natural, but whose tissues are more lax and more prone to soften and ulcerate if any undue or prolonged pressure upon them takes place. It is, as a matter of practical fact, curious to notice, how easily such patients get the premonitory redness from the slightest compression of the skin over the bony prominences.

*(To be continued.)*

## Royal British Nurses' Association.

*(Incorporated by Royal Charter.)*



HER Royal Highness PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, has graciously consented to open and preside at a grand bazaar, in aid of the funds of the Association, to be held in the Grafton Galleries, on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of December next. Princess CHRISTIAN will preside at a central stall, aided by Her Highness

Princess VICTORIA of Schleswig-Holstein, Lady JEUNE and Lady DUCKWORTH.

It is proposed that Matrons and Nurses of various Hospitals shall preside over the other stalls, to which General, Special, Infirmary, and Children's Hospitals have contributed.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK has consented to arrange the Private Nurses' Stall; Miss ISLA STEWART, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, will undertake the management of the Tea Room; Miss DE PLEDGE, Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary, will preside over the Dairy Stall.

The kindly co-operation of the Members of the Association and of the public is earnestly requested, and articles for the following Sections will be most gratefully received by the Hon. Secretary, at the Office, 17, Old Cavendish Street, London, W.: Art Needlework, Artistic Handicrafts, Plain Needlework, Baby's and Children's Clothes, Toys, Dressed Dolls, New Books, Items of comfort, such as Woolen Shawls and Wraps, Bed Capes, Knitted Stockings and Socks, &c.

Articles for the Writing Table—Embroidered Blotters, Pen Wipers, Stationery, &c.

Articles for the Toilet—Scent, Soap, &c. Sick Room Appliances.

It is hoped that these contributions will provide a wide and varied choice of Christmas Gifts, and that a large section of the public will take the opportunity of buying presents at the Nurses' Bazaar, thereby aiding the Association in the great national work in which it is engaged. Members who have friends desirous to assist in furnishing stalls at the Bazaar, and who are unable to work themselves, will find that Miss Lambert, M.R.B.N.A., of 7, Compton Street, Eastbourne, will execute orders with promptitude and skill at moderate charges.

Parcels should be directed to the Secretary, 17, Old Cavendish Street, W., and marked for the special stalls at which the contributor wishes them sold. All articles sent by private Nurses and their friends, should be addressed c/o Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W. All articles sent and duly received at the office, will be acknowledged through the official column in the NURSING RECORD weekly.

The Hon. Secretary will be obliged if all ladies desirous of attending the Lectures commencing in the first week of October, will intimate to her their intention of so doing, and take tickets, as it will help her to arrange the classes.

ALICE RAVENHILL,  
*Secretary of the Corporation.*

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