

reason also should we use our eyes—a reason which must have presented itself to those of us more particularly engaged in obstetric work. It is this. Some patients are so acutely sensitive that it becomes absolute torture if a Nurse cannot pass the catheter at once into the urethra. Pressure from above should be made upon the bladder to ensure its being quite empty; and before withdrawing the catheter, the finger should be placed over the open end, in order to retain what urine is left in it, otherwise this would drain back, and having been once exposed to the air would more readily decompose and possibly give rise to cystitis. The parts should be again washed and left as dry as possible. If these precautions are always taken, a Nurse may feel quite confident, even if cystitis should occur, that the catheter has not been the cause.

The use of catheters after abdominal section is a much-discussed question. In my opinion there is *no* question as to whether it should be used or not.

I have found in several cases in my own experience, that cystitis has occurred when from the first there has been no use of catheter at all, whereas in only two cases have I been able to trace it to any carelessness in catheterisation. Therefore I conclude that the proper and careful use of a catheter every six hours is right for the first four or five days after operation; then, once in twenty-four hours (the patient passing her water naturally at other times) until there is no further necessity for its use.

That cystitis does occur with no catheter, is, I think, due to the fact that the abdominal muscles have by the middle line incision been rendered to a great extent powerless, consequently a patient lying flat upon her back is unable to entirely empty her bladder, hence arises all the trouble.

Inability to empty the bowel, from the same cause, is a most distressing complication in abdominal cases, it is only by occasionally examining the rectum that we can avoid it, for often the first symptom is diarrhoea and incontinence of fæces. A patient complains of pain in the "lower part of the back," with what she describes as "fulness and weight." The Nurse will invariably find a large scybalous mass which no medicine or enema will remove. This must be broken up with the finger, and as much taken away as possible. Then a soap enema, with about 2 to 4 ounces of olive oil added, will be sufficient to clear the bowel. This enema should be passed high up into the bowel by means of a catheter attached to the syringe.

Before leaving the subject of catheters I would remind you that the same precaution should be taken in washing out the bladder, viz., the cleansing.

(To be continued.)

Appointments.

MISS SIBYL TREGENNA PINCHARD has been appointed Night Superintendent at the Children's Hospital, Shadwell. She obtained a certificate of training from that Hospital in 1891, and has since gained experience in adult nursing at Charing Cross Hospital and at Gordon House Home Hospital. Miss Pinchard is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Registered Nurse.

Nursing Echoes.



THE Chairman of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association has issued invitations to the representative Nursing Schools and Societies, to depute a delegate to attend a meeting to discuss the following resolution, proposed and carried unanimously by Dr. Bedford Fenwick, at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association, in July last—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is expedient that an Act of Parliament should, as soon as possible, be passed providing for the registration and education of medical, surgical, and obstetric Nurses; and the Council of this Association are therefore requested to consider this matter, and to take such measures as may seem to them advisable to obtain such legislation." The Conference is to take place early in January.

WE have pleasure in wishing our readers in every part of the country and abroad a very pleasant Christmas, and we trust that the New Year will bring them happiness and prosperity in their individual and family lives, and that it will mark new developments and progress in the whole Nursing profession.

WE would also take this opportunity of conveying the heart-felt congratulations of the Nursing profession to H.R.H. the Duchess of York on the birth of her second son, who has only just missed being a real Christmas baby, and we are glad to note that she is making a rapid recovery.

THE Western Hospital Committee of the Metropolitan Asylums Board have arranged to appoint a Nursing Superintendent to superintend the Nursing and domestic staffs employed in connection with the river transport of small-pox patients, and to perform such duties of both housekeeper and steward as might be requisite, at wages of £40, rising to £50 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform, and an additional £10 per annum for keeping accounts; and, further, that the "regulations for the en-

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