

portment, and in final examinations, before a diploma is granted.

Averages.—Four of these schools require an average of 50 per cent. ; two, 60 per cent. ; one, 65 per cent. ; six, 70 per cent. ; four, 75 per cent. ; one, 90 per cent. In ten of these schools ward marks are included in the general average. In the eight remaining schools, general excellence in examinations, work, and deportment, merits a diploma.

(To be continued.)

Answers to Prize Questions.

I.—How can nurses help to elevate their profession?

Nurses can help to elevate their profession by developing their own characters, by taking an interest in public affairs, (more especially in those which relate to their own sex), by keeping up their general reading, and their knowledge of current events; by an active interest in all that concerns the well-being of their own profession, and by working for the true interests of that profession whether these coincide with their own personal advantage or no; by combining with their colleagues to obtain professional organisation and nursing reforms, and by reading their own professional papers; by an unselfish devotion to their work, placing their patients always first, and themselves second; by a determination to be thorough in all things, and never to slur over anything, but to aim at perfection.

II.—Describe the best method of cleansing catheters?

Catheters should be cleansed on the exterior by washing with warm water and soap to remove the grease. The interior should be cleansed by syringing with warm water, always from the eye downwards, until the water runs perfectly clear. If the catheters above the eyes be not solid, these parts will require special attention. They should then be syringed with an antiseptic solution, 1 in 20 carbolic, or 1 in 2,000 perchloride of mercury. Silver catheters should be sterilised by boiling, and be afterwards transferred to a sterilised rack and case. Red rubber and gum elastic catheters should be immersed for several hours in an antiseptic solution in a covered vessel, after which they may be dried on a sterilised towel, and transferred to one of the air-tight glass tubes with india-rubber stopper now obtainable.

Flexible catheters may also be suspended in an air-tight vessel in a preparation of perchloride of mercury and glycerine 1 in 1,000. Kept in this way they remain absolutely sweet, as may be demonstrated by cutting open a catheter which has been so treated after months of use. The employment of a carbolic preparation for

disinfection or lubrication is open to objection, as in many cases carbolic acts as an irritant.

B. M.

I.—How can nurses help to elevate their profession?

(1) A nurse must start on the firm basis of a three years' training in a good hospital, thereafter she joins the Royal British Nurses' Association and becomes a registered nurse. She should take an intelligent interest in the affairs of this Association, remembering that co-operation means strength. But she will not be content only with this three years' training, for "*qui non proficit, deficit.*" She will always be striving after more perfect knowledge and higher skill. She will attend such lectures as are within her powers, she will acquire such books relating to her work as appear from time to time, and she will read regularly a nursing paper which will stimulate her interest in her profession. She will gradually gain more confidence in herself as her knowledge of her work grows, and she will acquire a certain self-respect to which the people with whom she comes in contact give a recognized value.

(2) She will keep before her mind a high ideal of her work, remembering always that its aim and object is to help the sick and suffering. Her sympathy will be ever ready, and she will neglect nothing which goes towards making her the comfort and stay she desires to be to both patient and friends.

(3) A nurse who would raise the standard of her profession will continue her education outside the lines, by taking up the study of a science or a modern language—anything in fact which tends to broaden the sympathies and educate the mind. She will also read the daily papers, and teach herself to think and talk intelligently on the questions of the day.

II.—Describe the best method of cleansing catheters?

The utmost care must be taken, as the least dirt passed into the bladder may cause incurable disease. An absolutely new gum-elastic catheter ought to be used for each patient, and kept only for that patient. After it has been used it must first be thoroughly cleansed by holding it under warm running water till it comes clear from either end, particular care being given to the eye. Thereafter an antiseptic solution, 1 in 40 carbolic, is passed through it from the eye, and it must be kept in a covered vessel, either in the carbolic solution or in carbolic oil, till the next time of using. In any case it must be perfectly soft, and immersed in the antiseptic oil before using.

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