

Professional Review.

GOLDEN RULES OF SURGICAL PRACTICE.

WE reviewed a short time since the "Golden Rules of Obstetric Practice," published by Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co., Limited. The "Golden Rules of Surgical Practice," by Mr. E. Hurry Fenwick, F.R.C.S., while written for medical students are yet of interest to nurses as giving them a glimpse into the reasons for many things which they see carried out in practice.

The following quotation may be remembered with benefit by nurses as well as surgeons. "A probe in the hands of a dirty or rough surgeon is like a loaded pistol in the paw of a monkey."

We also commend the following rules relating to operations to the attention of nurses:—

"Remember that surgical cleanliness is more than ordinary cleanliness."

"Never permit a naked light to be brought near the Ether apparatus."

"Always see that the end of the plug or drain is properly secured, in inserting plugs or plug-appliances for colotomy and gastrostomy; or drainage tubes for abscesses or wounds, especially in empyemata."

"Never forget that in fracture of the spine the tendency to death is due to pneumonia and complications if the fracture is situated high up; and to urinary inflammation and bedsores if lower down."

"Never forget the tripod of successful healing of wounds has three legs—asepticism, rest, coaptation of edges."

"Never forget that if an operation wound suppurates the fault lies with the operator or his assistants."

"Remember that mercury perchloride gauze, or lotion, ruins steel instruments."

GOLDEN RULES OF GYNÆCOLOGY.

A companion booklet to "Golden Rules of Obstetric and Surgical Practice," is "Golden Rules of Gynæcology," by Dr. S. Jervois Aarons, Registrar to the Hospital for Women, Soho. From this we may cull the following rules as of interest to nurses:—

"Always have the abdomen shaved and properly sterilized the night before operation. Scrub the abdomen well with soap and hot water, next with turpentine, and then with a weak solution of perchloride of mercury 1:8000. After this, place a compress soaked in carbolic 1:60, on the abdomen. This should not be removed until the patient is placed on the operating table."

"Do not forget that your instruments can be easily and effectually sterilized by being boiled for twenty minutes. The addition of a little carbonate of soda both hastens the process and prevents rusting."

"Never boil catgut ligatures in water. Remember that water gelatinizes the gut. Catgut may be boiled in Lysol, but the following process sterilizes the gut quite as effectually: It should be thoroughly scrubbed with soap and water, rinsed in sterilized cold water, then placed in a glass jar containing ether. It is left in this for twenty-four hours, and is then transferred to a 1:1000 alcoholic solution of perchloride of mercury."

"Remember that the cleanest catheter is one made of glass. Such a catheter is quite strong, and is very easily sterilized."

Our Foreign Letter.

WHERE THE DISTRICT NURSE IS UNKNOWN.

(A holiday letter from the shores of the South Pacific.)

BY LINA MOLLETT.



WE were sitting in the shade of the overhanging roof of a Chilian hacienda.

Before us, beyond a broad stretch of golden sand, sap-

phire blue, and heaving snowy foam of the ocean, overhead cloudless blue, to right, to left, and behind sunburnt rocks, overgrown with giant cactus, opening huge white cups to the glare they loved; tall myrtle, silvered over with star-like blossoms, aloes, purple-blossomed artichokes, "maki," and the priceless ever-greens and orchids of English conservatories, valued here as weeds.

We were happy and lazy.

Petronella and Mercedes, two fair-haired, fair-skinned girls, with soft, velvety, black eyes, were idly fidgeting their guitars and humming a national dance.

And here—with due respect to the writers of blood-curdling romances with Chilian backgrounds and swarthy dagger-armed heroines—I must take the liberty of a resident, and assert emphatically, that our Chilian sisters of the upper classes, descendants of the Spaniards, are almost always fair-skinned—as a rule, endowed with exceptionally delicate complexions; gentle eyes, gentle courteous manners, home-loving, and quite innocent of the use of weapons.

To add a personal experience, extending over more than two years, and a good many square miles, I have found the revolver, that always figures so readily in above romances, quite unnecessary; and, in fact, no more encouraged by the law, as a part of the general equipment of a peaceful citizen or citizeness, than it would be in Merry England.

As for our less fortunate sisters here, the dark-skinned daughters of Indian race, they are (unless intentionally roused) the most meek and affectionate of people.

Among thousands of Chilian women I have met it has not yet been my fate to come across one tigress of fiction, nor, for the matter of that, one tiger either. On the contrary!

After which long, but necessary, interlude, we return to our hacienda. We were watching the Pacific boulders, and listening to the grand and sullen roar of the water, oddly mingling with the tinkle of the guitars, while the brilliant sunshine painted blue-black shadows on the golden sand, and a lonely gull in the blue vault was the only speck of locomotive life before us, when another speck, moving towards us over a bend in the coast, caught our attention.

"A man!" exclaimed the keen-eyed Pedro, a pretty boy of seven, who was engaged in that occupation dear to boys all the world over, of whittling an unnecessary stick to the detriment of a valuable knife.

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