

equally warm, otherwise the shock to the skin of the cooler air will certainly be found detrimental. I think, in many instances of unexplained kidney complications, that many of the ill-effects of ether upon the kidneys are due to this very fact. Too little care is given to this point and evil consequences follow its neglect.

The bed should be prepared by means of hot bottles and blankets, so that the patient may be kept perfectly warm. It is my custom to exclude all liquids and solids, too, for that matter, for some time subsequent to the operation. Liquids are allowed, provided there is no nausea and vomiting, after twelve to twenty-four hours, depending upon the case. Solid food is not allowed until the fifth day, then only sparingly and beginning with the mildest and blandest articles of diet. Upon the morning of the third day, if the tongue is dry, if there is a tendency to nausea I give calomel. If the tongue is moist, if the stomach is perfectly quiet, I give a saline. If necessary this is repeated and followed usually by an enema preceding the evacuation. Morphine is absolutely prohibited in all cases, as I consider its effect in drying up the secretions far more injurious than the good effect derived from it by relieving pain or nervous symptoms which the patient may have. Catheterization should be carried out at six-hour intervals for the first three or four days. Even after plastic work about the perineum the patient is allowed to void her urine after this time. Great care must, of course, be exercised in using the catheter to prevent infection of the bladder. I have seen some very disagreeable symptoms follow carelessness on the part of the nurse in this respect. It is my invariable rule to keep my patients in bed for two weeks after abdominal work of any kind, and if possible, or if it is a fat patient, I keep her in bed for three weeks. Three weeks is also the time after plastic work about the vaginal outlet; after this they are allowed to sit up, and as they grow stronger they may be permitted to walk about.

In conclusion, I will say that I believe our mortality, low as it is, can be even reduced by attention to these little details, and certainly some of the sequelæ which follow operations will be avoided.

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### Legal Matters.

EDITH HANNAH BELLAMY, a nurse formerly employed at the Park Hospital, was recently charged, at Greenwich, with stealing a lady's bicycle, the property of Miss Sadie Hackney, at that institution. When arrested, the prisoner said she could not understand why she did it. She was remanded on bail.

### A Prospect of Active Service.

By the courtesy of the Army Medical Department of the War Office we are able to give our readers the following information with regard to the nursing arrangements which are being made with a view to the possibility of the declaration of war in the Transvaal.

Sister Russell, of the Army Nursing Service, who left for Africa last Saturday, has been appointed Superintendent of Nurses, and the following Army Sisters have also been ordered to the Cape:—Sister Sammut, Sister Martin, Sister Hoadley, and Sister Hill. Ten of the nurses belonging to the Army Nursing Reserve will also receive instructions to proceed to the Cape. These nurses will work under the direction of the Sisters. More nurses will be despatched if necessary, but, in the present uncertainty, those mentioned above will form the first contingent. Nothing is known by the Army Medical Department of a rumour that in the event of hostilities being declared, nurses, unconnected with the Army, already in South Africa, would be employed. The General-in-Command would have power to employ such nurses if he thought well, but he would have to receive sanction from home for the expenses incurred.

The establishment of field hospitals is not contemplated. There will probably be a few tents at the front to afford temporary shelter to the wounded, but it is proposed to convey the wounded with all speed by train to Durban. Two trains will be arranged for their accommodation, upon which nurses will be employed, and two hospital ships, also carrying nurses, will run between Durban and the Cape. For this purpose the Admiralty have taken over the Union Steamship Company's steamers *Trojan* and *Spartan*, and they are now being fitted up at Southampton to act as hospital ships. It would seem, therefore, that the representations of Captain Norton, M.P., with regard to the nursing arrangements in the Soudan campaign, have been taken to heart, and that the mistakes which were then made will not be repeated.

Contractors are busily engaged at Woolwich delivering field hospital stores there. In addition to the provision which is being made for the sick and wounded, light field veterinary medicine chests, suitable for pack-saddle conveyance, are being sent out for veterinary surgeons engaged with troops for the treatment of sick, lame, and wounded horses.

It is stated that several English doctors are assisting the Boers, and that 140 women are offering their services as nurses in the Transvaal.

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