

Practical Notes on Nursing.

RULES FOR EXAMINATION OF URINE.

For the use of the Nurses at King's College Hospital, by request of the Sister-Matron.

I.—Measure, and make note of amount passed daily.

II.—Note colour, specific gravity and reaction.

Acid urine turns blue litmus paper red.

Alkaline urine turns red litmus paper blue.

III.—Note colour of deposit (if any) and result of heating in a test tube.

A cloudy pink deposit, which becomes clear on boiling, consists of urates.

A cloudy deposit, which becomes more dense on boiling, and clears on adding a few drops of Nitric Acid, consists of phosphates.

IV.—Test for Albumen.

(a) Boil in a test tube and add a few drops of Nitric Acid. A flocculent white precipitate indicates albumen.

(b) Fill $\frac{1}{2}$ of test tube with urine, add an equal part of Picric Acid and boil. Flocculent white precipitate indicates albumen.

(c) Fill $\frac{1}{2}$ of test tube with urine, slant the tube and gently pour in Nitric Acid. An opaque white line forms where the fluids meet, if albumen is present.

V.—Test for Sugar.

(a) Fill $\frac{1}{2}$ of test tube with urine, add Sulphate of Copper (3 or 4 drops, or more, until blue colour is distinct) add sufficient Liquor Potassæ to form a clear blue solution and then boil. A yellowish red or reddish brown colour results if sugar is present.

(b) Boil together equal parts of urine, Picric Acid and Liquor Potassæ. A black colour results if sugar is present.

VI.—Test for Pus.

Boil urine with an equal part of Liquor Potassæ. A rosy precipitate, entangling air bubbles, forms if pus is present.

VII.—Test for Blood.

With a glass tube remove some urine from lowest part of specimen glass. To this, in a test tube, add 2 or 3 drops of Tincture of Guaiacum, and a few drops of Ozonic Ether; shake together. A blue colour indicates blood.

VIII.—Test for Bile Pigment.

Put some Nitric Acid in test tube and gently float some urine on the surface. A coloured ring, changing from green, to blue, violet red and yellow indicates bile pigment.

IX.—Test for Bile Acids.

Dissolve some cane sugar in urine, moisten white blotting paper with this and allow

it to dry. Put one drop of strong Sulphuric Acid on the paper, and a violet red spot forms if bile acids are present.

X.—Test for Chlorides.

To urine in test tube add 2 or 3 drops of Nitric Acid, and then one drop of Nitrate of Silver. The amount of white precipitate which forms will indicate the amount of chlorides present.

NESTOR TIRARD,

Physician to King's College Hospital.

Appointments.

MATRON.

MISS GERTRUDE MÖLLER has been appointed, out of 79 applicants, Matron of the General Hospital, Cheltenham. She was trained and certificated at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where, for five years, she held the position of Staff Nurse, and, for the last six years, Sister of the Male Surgical Wards.

MISS ELIZABETH HODGKINSON has been appointed Matron of the Bolton Infirmary and Dispensary. She was trained in this institution, and subsequently held the positions of Theatre and Out-patient Sister, and Ward Sister.

The Passing Bell.

WE record, with regret, the death of Miss E. Grace Hanan, who, for nearly twenty years, did excellent work as Matron of the Crumpsall Infirmary, Manchester. Miss Hanan was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, in the sixties, and, after acting for a short time as District Nurse, was appointed Matron of the Parish Infirmary, Liverpool, a position she held until her appointment as Matron at Crumpsall in 1878.

The sad death of a Sister is reported at the Belgrave Hospital for Children, Pimlico. She was showing a probationer how to fill a lamp with methylated spirit, when the wick flared up, and the probationer, becoming frightened, dropped the lamp and also the bottle of spirit. The contents of the bottle immediately ignited, and Sister Betteridge was so severely burnt that her death ensued. Miss Milestone, one of the resident doctors, who tried to save her, and who was herself rather severely burnt, was commended by the Coroner, at the inquest which was subsequently held, for her plucky efforts. The jury, in returning a verdict of "accidental death," also commended Miss Milestone's courage.

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