

Miss Kathleen Lucretia Burleigh has been appointed Matron of the Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh. Miss Burleigh was trained and certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where, for a time, she acted as Night Superintendent. She was subsequently appointed Assistant Matron at the Poplar and Stepney Sick Asylum, and in 1898 Matron of the Fountain Fever Hospital, Tooting Graveney, which position she at present holds. Miss Burleigh is a member of the Matrons' Council, and of the League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses, and takes an active interest in the work of both societies. Her colleagues will regret her departure from London, and will miss her presence at the meetings. She takes with her many good wishes for her success in her present appointment.

Notes on Practical Nursing.

PREPARATION OF OPERATING ROOM SUPPLIES AND THE OPERATING ROOM IN HOSPITALS AND HOMES.

BY HANNA KINDBOM,

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SOAPS.

Johnson's Etheral Soap.
Solution of Green Soap.
Green Soap.
Pure Castile Soap.
Sterile Castile Soap.
McClintock's Germicidal Soap.

Johnson's Etheral or Antiseptic Soap is most commonly used and has a splendid cleansing quality; it is very agreeable, and soft to the skin.

Solution of Green Soap is made out of common Green Soap dissolved with ether and alcohol, to which is added some glycerine and oil of bitter almond. This soap is equally as good as Johnson's Etheral Soap, and a great deal cheaper.

Green Soap is made in all hospitals from linseed oil and caustic potash.

Pure Castile is a very soft and agreeable soap to the skin, but does not have the same cleansing qualities as the above mentioned.

Sterile Castile Soap is mostly used as a lubricant in gynecological examinations and operations; it is made as follows: Shave $\frac{3}{4}$ xvi. castile soap, add oij of water, allow it to soak overnight in a covered receptacle, add another pint of water in the morning, and let it boil down to the thickness of molasses; $\frac{3}{4}$ Bicarbonate of Soda added to the soap while boiling

will make it clear. Strain into sterile jars, cover with air-tight fitting lids.

McClintock's Germicidal Soap (Parke Davis) has been tested with pus germs and anthrax spores, and it has been found that none of the germs and spores survived one minute.

METHODS OF STERILIZING HANDS AND FIELD OF OPERATION.

Every surgeon has his own preference in sterilizing the hands and field of operation, and all assisting should consider it their duty to follow his method. Warm sterile water and sterile nail-brushes are used by all.

It is the operating room nurse's duty to make herself acquainted with the surgeon's method before the operation, so that she may have everything in systematic order, and prevent confusion and delay. The hands and arms, as far as the elbows, should be scrubbed with a good stiff nail-brush that has been boiled for two hours previous to the operation, and some of the before-mentioned soaps, for five minutes, in warm sterile water. The nails should be trimmed short, and cleansed well with a sterile blunt nail file. Scrub hands again for two minutes, and rinse in plain sterile water. Use some of the following methods for sterilization:—

- No. 1.—Pot. Permanganate Sol. 2 per cent.
Sterile water.
Oxalic Acid, Sup. Sat. Sol.
Sterile Soda Sol. 1 per cent.
Sterile Water.
- No. 2.—Sol. Pot. Permanganate 2 per cent.
Oxalic Acid, Sup. Sat. Sol.
Sterile Lime Water.
Sterile Water.
Bichloride Sol. 1-1000.
- No. 3.—Carbonate of Soda (crystals).
Chloride of Lime in Powder.
- No. 4.—Bichloride Sol. 1-1000.
Sterile Water.
- No. 5.—Absolute Alcohol.
Sterile Water.
- No. 6.—Turpentine.
Absolute Alcohol.
Bichloride Sol. 1-1000.
- No. 7.— $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Sol. Formaldehyde.
- No. 8.—3 per cent. Sol. Carbolic Acid.
- No. 9.—1 per cent. Sol. Lysol.
- No. 10.—1 per cent. Sol. Creoline.
- No. 11.—4 per cent. Sol. Acetic Acid.
- No. 12.—Colman's powdered mustard.
- No. 13.—Normal Salt Sol.

After using No. 3 and No. 12, with which the hands and arms should be well rubbed, rinse in warm Bichloride Solution, 1 in 1,000, made with sterile water.

Some surgeons use nothing but plain sterile water.

(To be continued.)

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