

Appointments.

MATRON.

Miss Jane C. Child has been appointed Matron of the Buluwayo Memorial Hospital, Rhodesia, South Africa. Miss Child was trained at St. Thomas' Hospital from 1884—86, was Sister at the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, from 1886—90, private nurse from 1890—93, Matron of the Victoria Hospital, Lewes, from 1893—95, a member of the Registered Nurses' Society from 1895—99, when she went to South Africa to fill the position of Sister at the Kimberley Hospital, where she has worked hard all through the troublous time of war. Miss Child was one of the Sisters sent, by the National Fund for the Greek Wounded, to Greece during the Græco-Turkish war, where she had charge of the ward for sick Turkish prisoners at the Ecole Militaire, and was awarded in 1898 the Distinguished Order of the Greek Red Cross by the Queen of the Hellenes for "excellent service in Greece, in nursing the sick and wounded." Miss Child enters upon her new duties with a record of excellent work and the hearty good wishes of her colleagues at home for a successful and happy future. The appointment is a good one, carrying with it a salary of £150 per annum, with quarters, board, and washing.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss Georgiana E. Spencer has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease, Queen Square, Bloomsbury. Her previous appointments have been those of Sister at the Mildmay Nursing Institution, Night Superintendent at the National Hospital, Queen Square, Assistant Matron at the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, and Lady Superintendent at the County General Infirmary, Carlow.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Miss Laura Clara Clifton has been appointed Assistant Matron at the Western Hospital, Fulham. Miss Clifton was trained at the Westminster Hospital, where as probationer, nurse, and Home Sister she remained for six years. Her subsequent appointments have been Lady Superintendent of the Nursing Home, Swansea, and Matron of the Alcester Hospital, Warwickshire.

Miss Jessie Smith has been appointed Assistant Matron at the General Hospital, Nottingham. She was trained and certificated at King's College Hospital, where she also held the position of Night Sister. She subsequently held the position of Ward Sister at the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, and of Out-patient Sister at the Children's Hospital, Shadwell.

Notes on Practical Nursing.

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

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STERILIZATION OF LIGATURES AND SUTURES.

Ligatures and sutures used in an operating room are as follows:—

Silk
Silkwormgut
Silver wire
Horse hair
Catgut
Linen thread
Whip cords
Steel wire
Kangaroo tendons
Fine rubber tubing.

Silk is used in different sizes, colours, and varieties, depending upon the pedicle or blood vessel to be tied, the wound to be closed. Either twisted or braided silk can be used, the braided being the strongest. A fine, strong ligature is the most preferred, as it will be less apt to cause irritation.

Common black sewing silk makes a fine suture for a ruptured intestine, as its colour will make it more conspicuous.

Silk should always be wound on glass reels, then boiled in water under pressure for 45 minutes, or sterilized by steam heat under 15 lbs. pressure.

Re-boiling and re-sterilization weakens the silk.

Silkworm-gut or salmon-gut is obtained from the silkworm when about to spin, or from the gut of the salmon. This material makes an excellent suture, because it can be so easily and thoroughly sterilized by boiling or steam-pressure, the only objection to this suture being that it buries itself so deeply in the tissues, which necessitates the surgeon leaving long ends that often disturb and annoy the patient.

Silver wires are, as the name indicates, made from pure silver; no others should be used, as they rust and break. They are used chiefly in closing up wounds, as in gynaecological operations, or to wire fractured bones together, etc. They are best sterilized by boiling in 10 per cent. Soda Solution for 15 minutes.

Horse hair is obtained from the tail of the horse, the black, stout hairs, being the most preferable. Wash the hair well in soap and hot water several times, then place in ether for 24 hours to remove all grease; wash well in

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