

atropia sulph., nitrate of amyl, two hypodermic syringes, an electric battery, a basin with ice, an oxygen inhaler. Beside this table should be placed an oxygen tank and two kidney-shaped basins.

The wash-room should contain a modern wash-stand with hot and cold sterile water, sterile brushes, nail-files and soaps, a stand with solution bottles and basins and large mirror. On the wall over the wash-stand should be painted rules for cleansing the hands, also other rules necessary for the discipline of the operating-room.

The instrument-room should only contain large cases with instruments on glass shelves, or in their respective cases. On the wall should be a printed list of instruments used by different surgeons in different cases.

The store-rooms should contain glass cases with glass shelves, on which are assorted dressings, bandages, suits, gowns, etc., in their proper glass jars or boxes, plainly labelled, and all glass bowls and trays used during operations.

The surgeons' and nurses' bath and toilet-rooms should contain large porcelain bath-tubs, glass cases with sterile underwear, solutions desired for disinfection, soap and flesh-brushes, towels and wash-cloths, mirrors and chairs. Adjoining this should be sanitary water-closets. All these rooms mentioned should be made with walls and floors like the operating-room.

Sunshine and light should prevail everywhere. The whole apartment should be well heated with steam heat.

The operating-room should have three nurses—one head nurse, whose duty it should be to do all the sterilization, one assistant nurse, who should be responsible for the cleanliness and order of the operating department, and one second assistant, who should do all other work assigned her by the head nurse and act as the s. c. non-sterilized nurse during the operations. Perfect discipline should prevail here, and, need I add, perfect honesty and conscientiousness. The operating-room nurses must be fully aware of the grave responsibility assigned them, and the trust given them by their superior. With them rests often the poor sufferer's recovery, and they must feel bound to do the best that they can. If they commit mistakes, which all humans will do, they must openly confess them and receive correction and even punishment; this will only lead them up the ladder. But if they should smilingly give the surgeon a towel or gown taken from a sterilizer that has never been lighted, woe unto them; they will have their just reward—remorse of conscience.

For an operation, the operating-room is prepared as follows. The evening previous to the operation, all walls, windows, floors and tables,

etc., are well washed with hot soap suds, dried, then polished with two per cent. oxalic acid sol.; this will put a splendid polish to glass and porcelain ware.

Half an hour before the operation, everything in the operating-room is washed with 1-500 bichloride sol., the operating-table padded with sterile blankets and sheets, and extra blankets and sheets placed at hand for covering the patient. All straps needed should be in order, and the tubs for waste matter should be sterilized and placed in their respective places.

The ligature table should contain ligatures and sutures in their glass jars, small glass trays with the nurse's scissors and forceps and a sterile towel, with threaded needles, well folded when not in use. Over the table should be a glass shelf, on which are placed wide-mouthed glass bottles with glass stoppers, plainly labelled, containing nitric acid, carbolic acid, chromic acid, nitrate of silver in varied strength, tinct. of iodine, different emulsions and solutions for dressings, one jar with rubber and glass catheters, all gauze and tubing needed during operation, one jar with glass rods, one roll of adhesive plaster, one roll of rubber tissue, and all powders needed. Under the table should be attached a glass box containing all dressings, bandages and cotton.

One table should contain all restoratives as in the anæsthesia-room, adding the transfusion and infusion apparatus, the syringes for enemas, the thermo-cautery, matches, and an aspirator in its sterile glass jar.

One table should contain all sponges and sterile towels in their respective jars, also pitchers with hot and cold water and solutions well covered, and all basins needed for washing the sponges. All pitchers should be graduated. Under the table should be a waste bucket.

One table should consist of an enamelled steel frame, into which are fitted different instrument trays. All chairs should be of steel or iron enamelled.

Beside the surgeon should stand an enamelled steel frame holding a glass basin with sterile water or whatever solution he desires for rinsing the hands.

A large irrigating apparatus should stand at a proper distance from the operating-table, on which hang several glass pails with irrigation fluids, well covered. All tubing should be placed in glass pails underneath, containing some disinfectant.

The head nurse from the patient's ward should handle the sponges. One of the internes, or the assistant head nurse should handle the ligatures and dressings. The head nurse should be

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)