

Early in the morning one of the water containers should be put on the stove and the water allowed to boil; by adding the cool water during the operation the nurse can then get any temperature desired.

Next she should complete the preparation of the patient and the operating room, while the ligatures, sutures, and, later, the instruments are sterilized. Ligatures and sutures, such as silk, horsehair, silkworm-gut, and silver wire, are best boiled in a saucepan under cover; the catgut is more reliable if obtained sterilized from a reputable firm.

The instruments should be placed in a towel, both ends pinned together, and a long tape tied round the middle, with both ends hanging out from under the cover. This arrangement will make it more convenient when removing the instruments.

When completing the arrangement of the operating room shortly before the operation, the nurse should first pad the operating table with a heavy blanket and a sterile sheet. Then the other tables are rendered aseptic, and covered with bichloride towels or sheets. All basins and dishes should be arranged, and the general preparations finished. If flat dishes for the instruments are not obtainable, dry sterile towels can be spread over the bichloride towels on which the instruments may be placed.

If only one room is obtainable the bed should be placed in a corner of the room, well cleaned, disinfected, and prepared to receive the patient after the operation. Plenty of hot water bottles should always be at hand, also several towels, and a basin at the head of the bed. The mattress should be well protected under the field of the operation.

If the patient's vitality is very low, or it would be injurious to move him, the bed is prepared as an operating table by making up two beds on the same bedstead. After the operation the first bed is removed, and the patient rolled or lifted on to the clean bed underneath. The bed can be elevated to any height by means of bricks, making it more comfortable for the surgeon.

A nurse's duties in a private operating room are manifold, and she should always pay strict attention to the operator, preparing herself, when she can, for coming demands.

The following list may be of some value to nurses engaged in private practice.

**ARTICLES NECESSARY FOR A PRIVATE OPERATION.**

**Drugs:—**

Arom. spts. ammon. ....	℥ ss.
Bichloride tablets .....	L
Chromic acid .....	℥ ss.
Common salt .....	℥ lb.
Colodion .....	℥ ss.

Chloroform .....	℥ viii.
Carbolic acid .....	℥ viii.
Calcium carbide..... for cauterization	℥ ss
Ether soap .....	℥ viii.
Emulsions (qualities and quantities)	q. s.
Ether .....	50 grms.
Green soap .....	℥ iv.

**Hypodermic Tablets:—**

{ Strych. sulph. .... 1-30th gr.	1 tube
{ Morphia sulph. .... ¼ gr.	1 tube
{ Atrophia sulph. .... 1-100th gr.	1 tube
Nitric acid .....	℥ ss.
Nitrate of silver (in sticks or solution)	q. s.
Oxalic acid .....	℥ viii.
Powders (qualities and quantities) ...	q. s.
Pot. permanganate .....	℥ i.
Sodii carbonate .....	℥ iv.
Tinct. digitalis .....	℥ ss.
Vaseline .....	1 tube
Whiskey .....	℥ viii.

**Furniture:—**

Bed .....	1
Chairs (one for Trendelenburg's position) .....	3
Tables .....	3 large or 5 small

**Crockery:—**

Bowls .....	5 or more.
Dishes, flat .....	2
Pitchers .....	3

**Agate or Tin Ware:—**

Kettle .....	1
Saucepan .....	1
Washtub .....	1
Washboilers .....	2

**Linen:—**

Blankets .....	3
Gowns, caps and gloves (depending on number of assistants)	
Towels .....	24
Sheets .....	9

**Miscellaneous:—**

Bandages .....	
Bricks .....	3 or more
Catheters .....	2
Cotton .....	3 lb.
Colander .....	1
Dressings .....	any gauze desired
Glassrods .....	2
Hypodermic syringes .....	2
Glasses (graduated) .....	2
Instruments .....	
Inhaler for anæsthesia .....	
Kelly pad for gynæcological op. ....	
Nailbrushes .....	4
Oilcloth .....	72 by 90 inches
Oilsilk .....	½ yard.
Perforated board .....	1
Perineal pads .....	q. s.
Rectal syringes .....	1 bulb and 1 fountain
Rectal tubes .....	2
Rubber tubing .....	
Sponges .....	2 sets
Straps .....	4
Safety pins .....	3 doz
Tapes .....	2 rolls
Water .....	20 gallons

(To be continued.)

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