

Salol and boric acid are frequently given two to three days before the operation as a disinfectant to the kidneys, which are also flushed by inducing the patient to drink copious quantities of water, either plain or effervescent. A patient's bladder should always be emptied immediately before the operation.

*The skin* is especially prepared as follows: For major operations, general bath every day, followed by scrubbing field of operation with sterile water, brush, and soap, rinsed with alcohol and bichloride sol. 1-2,000. For minor operations the cleansing of the skin should begin two or three days previously, and in any case shaving should be considered an absolute necessity, as it does not only remove the hair but also the epidermis in which so many germs find a lodging place.

Not only should the line of incision be disinfected, but a generous space surrounding the same as this is exposed during operation.

The last preparation should be done with the nurse's hands, antiseptic, or rendered sterile by the use of sterile rubber gloves. All clothing used should be sterile. Every surgeon has his own methods, so it is unnecessary for me to mention any specialities.

Nourishment should be administered four hours previous to the operation, to minimize the danger of nausea and vomiting.

A hypodermic injection of strychnia, atropia or morphia is generally given before administering the anæsthetic depending on the patient's condition.

Dress the patient in warm combination stockings, extending to the groin, a short gown open at the back, and a doubled sheet wrapped around the patient and pinned in front with three safety pins.

If the operation is on the neck or in the face the hair should be covered with a sterile rubber cap.

The nails on both hands and feet should be cleansed and cut short. If the operation is on the eyes the eyebrows and beard should either be shaved, clipped short, or thoroughly scrubbed.

(To be continued.)

### American Nursing World.

Mrs. Dita H. Kinney, Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, has lost no time in bringing to the notice of the Surgeon General of the United States Army the draft constitution of our new Imperial Military Nursing Service. This active lady is making a tour of inspection of the nursing departments of the military hospitals in the United States, going as far west as San Francisco.

The Editor of the *American Journal of Nursing* considerably reprints one of our

editorials on the question of State Registration and the importance of the Resolution in favour of it passed at the recent Congress, and states:—

"Five years ago we would have said without hesitation that the nurses of this country were divided on the question of registration, but through the influence of our organizations and of the nursing journals the sentiment of the women of the profession has undergone a marvellous change. We stand to-day united in the belief that 'State Registration' is necessary for our progress; and without it we remain stationary; retrogression, under these circumstances, being the inevitable result. To our knowledge, the nurses of five States are taking decided steps along this line."

Miss Sophia Palmer recommends a wide and liberal representation in demanding this reform, and wisely says: "Our standard must be clearly defined before we can advance a step further, as 'What do you mean by a trained nurse' will be the first question with which we shall be confronted when the Bill for registration is presented to the Legislatures of the several States."

An American Correspondent writes—

"You remember, I am sure, the Holland nurse, Miss Von Vollenhagen, who was at the Congress, and whose enthusiasm over the meetings and ardent belief in progress through organization shone forth in her face as she spoke in imperfect English to the audience: although she does not yet speak fluently, she understands everything to perfection. Well, you would be greatly pleased if you were to read the account she has written of our doings for "Maandblad," she gives quite a comprehensive and full description of the various papers on the programme; reprimands the Dutch Nursing World for not sending a representative, and then proceeds in round terms to declare that only by being organized without medical men, as American nurses are, can nurses hope to progress in dignity and have full scope for complete development. She attributes all the backwardness of Continental nurses to the fact that not only in the care of the sick, but in every circumstance of their own lives, they are dominated by doctors, and she urges them to realize, and to oblige medical men to realize, that while they will always be equally faithful and obedient as now in the care of patients, they have a right to live their own independent unsupervised lives as they wish. 'Surely,' she says, 'as medical men would certainly not invite nurses to belong to their Medical Societies, so there is no reason why they should expect to belong to Nurses' Associations.' I am certain that such a delightful bit of sedition has not startled our good relatives in Holland for many a long day. It remains to be seen how the nurses take it, and whether the doctors of that land of our ancestry will think we are all going to wreck and ruin.

"Miss Von Vollenhagen is an admirable and intelligent woman, and seems to have all the enlightenment of a modern day born in her. She takes to organization and freedom like duck to water."

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