

with care, lucidly set forth, further made clear by admirable illustrations, of which many appear in the book. The one here reproduced will give some idea of their excellence.

The author has carefully considered every detail with which it is requisite that obstetric and gynecologic nurses should be acquainted, and those who, in combination with practical work, have assimilated his teaching will find themselves in a position to render skilled assistance on any occasion which is likely to arise in these branches of work.

The true position of maternity-nursing is insisted on by the author in his claim that "if we are to care properly for the patient she must have the same treatment which patients receive upon whom surgical operations are performed," and this because "our knowledge of wounds and their healing teaches us that the parturient patient is exposed to the dangers of wound infection or, in other words to puerperal sepsis." There must therefore be "aseptic or antiseptic dressings to protect this patient from wound infection." Once this principle, and its importance is grasped, it will be understood that to employ women of indifferent general education and professional education in this branch of nursing is not only undesirable but dangerous. The obstetric patient needs as a nurse as highly skilled a woman as the ordinary sick person, and not as is sometimes urged in connection with such nursing amongst the poor, one who is primarily a caretaker, but who in the intervals of house cleaning, and the preparation of meals for the family, finds time to give some attention of a more or less skilled nature to the patient whose care should be of primary importance.

Referring to the fact that the puerperal woman is a surgical patient, the author gives explicit directions as to the preparation of a nurse's hands before she touches a vulvar dressing. She should proceed precisely as if she were about to change the dressing of an abdominal section. "It is much easier to keep a case of abdominal section in an aseptic condition than a puerperal patient. The wounds in the genital tract after labour cannot be closed by the direct application of a dressing. These wounds must discharge,

because from the uterus must escape the cells which formed the uterine lining during pregnancy. The uterus must drain; and if it does not then absorption of lochia will follow and sapremia result. Hence the puerperal patient must be treated surgically with proper precaution."

The illustration on this page represents a nurse caring for the infected eyes of an infant, a condition which every nurse dreads, and at once reports to the physician, well knowing its gravity. The author gives full instructions for the performance of this duty, which, while the inflammation is active, should be carried out every half-hour. In



IRRIGATING INFECTED EYES.

this connection he says: "Wherever possible two or more nurses should be placed in charge of ophthalmia; it is a physical impossibility for one nurse to continue the applications day and night."

"The use of rubber gloves is advantageous for the nurse as it diminishes the danger of infection. If while caring for such a patient the nurse experiences redness, smarting, or swelling in her own eyes, she must report at once to a physician for treatment."

We commend the book to nurses and have no hesitation in saying they will learn much from a careful study of its pages.

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