

Organising the Operating-Room Nurses.

In most hospitals with an active surgical service, the operating-room corps consists of the chief surgical nurse and two pupil nurses. The experience of several years in hospital management has led me to adopt the following system in organising the operating-room nurses. The head nurse has charge of the operating-rooms, anesthetic room, aseptic preparation room, emergency room, sterilisers, &c. She is responsible for the condition of the instruments, must keep them catalogued, counted, and be ready to account for them at any time: all surgical material used throughout the hospital is prepared under her direction she superintends and assists in the preparation for the operation and acts as second assistant: she is held responsible for the proper labelling of pathological specimens, and must see that they reach the pathological department in good order.

The senior pupil nurse has for her special duties the preparation of all unsterilised materials; she does the work of the "clean nurse" at operations; she is held responsible for counting the sponges and also for replenishing the supplies throughout the house; in preparing for operations she is held responsible for the presence and condition of the operating clothing, the gowns, face masks, and aprons of the surgeon, and all his assistants, also for the brushes and rubber gloves.

The junior pupil nurse does all the duties that fall to the lot of the unsterilised or general nurse. During operations she supplies visitors with gowns, lifts the patient to and from the table, assists the assistant surgeon in preparing the field of operation, empties basins and renews solutions, keeps the floors clear and clean, picks up fallen instruments, is responsible for the operating blankets and arm or leg supporters, changes the patient's gown after operation, and assists the anesthetist as may be necessary. She is responsible for the dusting of the operating room, for cleaning rubber goods, for the tables, pillows and their coverings. Prior to operations she assists in preparing dressings, and the arranging of the anesthetist's table is included in her duties. After operations she removes the blood stains from clothing and collects it for the laundry.

The secret of successful, smooth work lies largely in system. To have the duties definitely divided is the first step towards having them properly done.

SUPERINTENDENT.

The National Hospital Record.

The Nurses' Petition to the Prime Minister.

The Nurses' Petition to the Prime Minister respectfully pleading that the Government will undertake to introduce a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses into the House of Commons next Session will be found on page v. in our advertisement columns. The best Christmas gift that nurses can make to their profession is to cut out this form, sign it, invite other nurses, medical practitioners, and members of the public to do so, and then post it to the Hon. Secretary, Nurses' Petition, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Will our readers also make it known that anyone desiring to sign this Petition can do so at the above address. The time in which to organise this Petition is very short, so we hope all readers will help.

Our Five Guinea Prize Competition.

We desire to remind our readers who are sending in articles on Practical Nursing Subjects for our Five Guinea Prize Competition, to note that they must be in the Editor's hands not later than Saturday, December 29th. Competitors should be careful to comply with the conditions governing the competition published on page 504 of this issue.

The Cardiff Needlework Guild.

There was a large attendance at the recent At Home of the President and Vice-President of the Cardiff Jubilee Nurses' Needlework Guild, which was followed by a short meeting, at which the President of the Guild, Mrs. Mullin, Preswylfa, presided, when Miss Morgan, Superintendent of the Queen's Nurses' Institute, in that town, gave an interesting statement as to the work of the nurses and the use made of the gifts. Nearly 2,000 poor sick people had been attended, which meant, she said, 51,051 visits.

The Bishop of Llandaff warmly commended the extremely valuable work of the Institute, amongst the poor to the attention of the charitably-disposed people of Cardiff. They heard much nowadays of physical degeneration. There was no way in which they could more effectively check and stop this degeneration of the race than by skilled care of the mothers and children in the cities, and this the nurses, with the practical assistance of the needlework guild, were able to give.

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