

and so permitting the broken ends of the clavicle to come together.

When the surgeon has done his work, the patient has to depend for his repair on Nature, and for his comfort on the nurse. As we have already seen, the method adopted by Nature is in the highest degree simple and effective. But there are twenty things which the nurse can do to help. Needless to say, the first essential is that the limb shall be kept at rest. After a day or two, the patient, especially if a man or a child, will become restless, will constantly desire to change his position, and if not carefully assisted, will quite possibly move the broken bone in doing so. The nurse who realises the danger of this occurrence, and the exact nature of the accident and of its treatment, will again and again be able to move the patient a little, or assist him to alter his position, without the slightest disturbance of the fracture. If it be the upper limb which is broken, the sling, for instance, can be raised or lowered a little with immediate relief. Sometimes, the hand is a little too low and becomes swollen, and raising it assists the circulation and removes the swelling and pain.

In the next place, nothing causes irritation like dirt; and nothing causes such acute discomfort as the irritation of the skin, which so often occurs under the bandages and the splints. Much of this can be saved by a gentle washing and powdering of the limb before the splints are adjusted; much of it can be relieved by dusting the skin with some antiseptic powder, whenever the bandages are readjusted.

There is no need to tell trained nurses at the present day of the danger of bedsores, or of the ease with which they can occur in patients suffering from fractures of the lower limbs, especially if they are constitutionally unsound. But there is one important practical point on which stress is very rarely laid in Nursing Lectures, and that is the great tendency of such patients, if at all advanced in age, to develop dangerous lung complications. Lying on their back, the back and lower parts of the lungs become loaded with blood, which the circulation is not active enough to remove. This condition goes on to increasing congestion, and a low form of Pneumonia. The breathing gets quicker and quicker, the heart more and more weakened by the strain thrown on it, and the patient dies. It is a golden practical rule, therefore, not only in these, but in all cases of illness amongst old or feeble people, to prop them up in bed as much as possible, so as to prevent this lung congestion and its consequences. (To be continued.)

Our Guinea Prize.

We have pleasure in announcing that our Guinea Prize for December has been won by Nurse Stone, Staplefield, Crawley, Sussex.

KEY TO PRIZE PUZZLES.

- No. 1. Shell Brand Floor Polish.
Shell B ran D flaw R polish.
- No. 2. Frame Food,
Frame food.
- No. 3. Red white & Blue Coffee.
"red white & blue" C off E.
- No. 4. Lemco.
L e MCO.

The following competitors have also solved the puzzles correctly: Mrs. Etheridge, West Kensington; Miss A. Jones, Dolgelly, N. Wales; Miss Mary C. Beavan, Swanage; Miss Rosa Ewbank, Bournemouth; Miss G. M. Smart, Cork; Miss Edith W. Nicholls, Sale; Miss Lavell, Cliftonville; Miss M. Modlin, Brixton; Miss Burghes, Southampton; Mrs. Shoesmith, Durham; Miss C. Guthrie Stein, Bournemouth; Miss F. R. Mollison, Edinburgh; Miss Emily Dinnie, West Malling; Miss L. Jackson-Bennett, Edinburgh; Nurse Taylor, Southampton; Nurse Eliza, Middlesbrough; Miss H. C. Wells, Sidcup; Miss Helen Lord, Kensington; Miss K. Eckersley Middlesbrough; Miss Mary A. Cole, Marlow; Miss F. Jackson Bennett, Edinburgh; Mrs. Baker, Savernake Forest; Miss Hurst, Folkestone; Nurse Harris, Finsbury Park; Miss J. L. Grant, Southampton; Miss Nora Longley, York; Miss M. Cooke, East Malling; Miss Walker, Southport; Miss E. Thomas, Stapleton, near Shrewsbury; Nurse J. Nuti, West Bromwich; Sister A. Sleightholme, York; Miss Annie Dredge, London; Miss M. Parry, Maida Vale; Miss A. F. Muller, Boxmoor; Nurse Thompson, Southampton; Leo, Tunbridge Wells; Miss Wood, Tunbridge Wells; Miss H. Bacon, Houghton-le-Spring; Miss M. M. Fenton, Acton; Miss Hope Dibben, Lynton; Mrs. Leigh, Lympstone, Exeter; Miss McLernon, Maidstone; Miss A. S. Tovey, Ringwood; Miss Maria Woodward, Folkestone.

Prize-Giving at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

At the Annual Distribution of Prizes and Certificates to the nurses of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital last week, as the result of the examinations which had taken place, the following were the successful nurses:—

Elementary Anatomy.—Prize, Nurse Smith; certificates, Nurses Olver, Littlejohns, and Nickson.

Nursing.—Prize, Nurse C. Fox; certificates, Nurses Melton and Nickson.

Elementary Physiology.—Prize, Nurse Hines.

The prizes were presented by the Hon. Mrs. Stanley, who, in a short address, spoke of the great interest which she took in nursing.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)