

THE DISINFECTION OF WASHING WATER.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—I notice your little reply in last week's issue, in which you emphasise the necessity of disinfecting the water used for the ablutions of patients suffering from infectious diseases. It is a most important matter, and one usually neglected by nurses in general hospitals, when nursing enteric and diphtheria cases. In fever hospitals, no doubt, they are more exact and careful. It would be interesting to know the rule.

Yours sincerely,

INFIRMARY SISTER.

[A well-known Medical Superintendent of a Fever Hospital to whom we have referred this point kindly writes:—

"Except in the case of enteric fever, it can hardly be urged as necessary to attempt the disinfection of the water in which patients have been washed, provided the sanitary fittings are in good order, and the utensils reserved for the patient alone. All the same, in a private house it is a good plan to add a little disinfectant of a reliable nature, such as carbolic acid, cyllin, or formalin, or better still, lysol, to the water so used.

After bathing a patient, it is better to mop out the bath with a stronger solution of the disinfectant after it has been emptied, using a sponge for the purpose. In the case of enteric fever, however, greater care is indicated, especially when the case is being nursed in a private residence. All water used, either for washing the patient or the nurse's hands, should have some disinfectant added, preferably before use."

The lesson is that nurses cannot be too careful.—Ed.]

Comments and Replies.

Nip.—The window should be kept open, but, of course, the room should be shaded from the sun and kept as cool as possible by drawing the blind down. The only possible reason for shutting the window of a room in which there is a dead body would be if the room could be kept air tight. As it is impossible to do this it is best to keep it ventilated.

Assistant Nurse.—Some of the principal dangers arising from large burns are:—(1) The destruction of the skin, which is highly sensitive, causes great shock to the patient. (2) The skin is unable to perform its work as an organ of excretion, more work may devolve on the kidneys than they are able to perform, poisonous gases are retained in the body, and blood poisoning may ensue. (3) In the event of a burn which has been allowed to become septic, death may be caused by the drain on the constitution caused by the suppurating surface, or by the absorption of decomposing matter.

Probationer.—It is well to make a practice of keeping notes of any new things which you have learnt in the course of the day. Make a point of trying to learn something every day.

Notices.**THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.**

All those desirous of helping on the important movement of this Society to obtain an Act providing for the Legal Registration of Trained Nurses can obtain all information concerning the Society and its work from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page xvi.

A Sweetheart's Advice.**SOME GIRLS KNOW A LOT ABOUT FOOD.**

A Lancashire man, who has enjoyed better health since eating the right kind of food, writes to tell us what his sweetheart recommended.

He says:—"For nearly three years I was under the doctor for indigestion and liver complaint. During that time, although I was engaged to be married, and anxious to earn good money, I was never able to keep at work long together.

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Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in each packet, and you will understand better how Grape-Nuts cures indigestion and diseases arising therefrom. There's a reason for Grape-Nuts—the energising, body-building food that's digested by the most sensitive stomach in one hour.

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If you find Grape-Nuts food a bit soft from the late damp weather, put it in an oven with the door left open and dry until crisp. Then add a sprinkle of sugar and some milk enriched with cream and there you are, the finest breakfast food extant.—Advt.

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