

require, that you may work your syringe properly. Before giving an injection, take a piece of waterproof sheeting and place it about the middle of the right side of the bed, and close to the edge; and over this put a warm Turkish towel or a piece of flannel. Put the salt and water into a washing basin, fix the nozzle—well lubricating it with vaseline, especially at the base—on to your syringe, and charge it ready for use. The patient must lie close to the edge of the bed, and on her left side, having the knees drawn up; the night-dress must be fastened up all round above the hips. Turn back the bed-clothes longwise, and as little as possible. Have the bed-slipper handy, and warmed. Bring the basin to the side of the bed—the brim should be level with the bed. Standing on the outer side of the basin, you can keep it in position between you and the bed. Pass the nozzle end of the syringe carefully into the rectum with your right hand; keep it there with your left whilst you *gently* work the ball of the syringe with your right hand, not removing it until you have finished injecting. Keep the feeding tube well under the water all the time. When you find the water returning to the syringe, remove it *at once* (never force it); take away the basin. The patient must now lie on her back, and the slipper be placed under her. Do not remove the waterproof, &c., until you are quite sure that the enema has fully operated. When that is the case take it away, and put the absorbent sheeting in its place, with clean napkins. The salt and water injection acts upon the colon by stimulating its muscular contractions, and this way will be found serviceable.

In cases of rectal block it is of course unavailing, and we have to resort to other measures, glycerine being about the best of them. It must be applied with a glycerine syringe. They are made of metal, something in shape like a common squirt. The nozzle is long, rounded at the end, and somewhat curved. Charged with glycerine—the quantity used being generally from half an ounce to one ounce—lubricate the nozzle, but do not choke it up, with the vaseline, and pass it gently between the block and the wall of the rectum in a backward direction. When the glycerine is all injected, withdraw the syringe; it very rarely fails in its action. The patient must lie in the same position as when you administered the enema.

These simple measures apply, of course, to simple cases, which are all we are now considering; therefore it is not necessary to enter into the matter of enemata of various kinds, nor suppositories, that we have to administer under some conditions in Midwifery Nursing.

Whatever may be the mode adopted to obtain an action of the bowels, the patient should be kept

extremely quiet on that day. No bed-making nor vaginal douching to be done, external bathing of the genitals being the safest. Do not forget to use a soft mop for this purpose; it is far better than the flannels, or, worst of all, the sponges generally used for that purpose. I have mentioned this to you in a previous paper. At this time, about the fourth or fifth day from delivery, we can make changes in the diet; but the consideration of this matter, with others, will be touched upon in my next chapter, which will treat of the important subject of lactation.

(To be continued.)

PRACTICAL LESSONS IN ELECTROTHERAPEUTICS.

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(Continued from page 160.)

ELECTROLYSIS.

THE experiments just referred to illustrate sufficiently for present purposes what is known as chemical synthesis, and will enable us to appreciate more easily the converse series of phenomena, collectively known by the term *analysis*. In analysis we find the processes, so to speak, running backwards—disintegration of compound bodies, disappearance of heat, electricity and so forth.

Our special duty is to deal with that department of analysis which is connected with the transformation of electrical energy, and particularly of that form of electrical energy commonly known as continuous or voltaic, and which may conveniently be termed *electrolysis*.

By *electrolysis* we mean a breaking up of chemical compounds into their constituent elements by the agency of electricity, the process being accompanied by the loss of heat, and usually by change in the volume of the substance submitted to experiment.

The conditions requisite for the performance of electrolysis are:

- (1) A fluid or semi-fluid conductor;
- (2) Conveniently placed electrodes;
- (3) A continuous current of sufficient electromotive force to overcome the resistance interposed between the electrodes.

As the result of the passage of a continuous current through a suitable conductor, decomposition of the fluid takes place, acid bodies being set free at the positive pole, and alkaline bodies at

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