

Mrs. E. F. Moakes, Miss G. Gibson, Miss B. Forsyth, Miss K. E. Denny, and Miss F. Shepard.

Miss M. Atkinson writes that the bed should be placed in such a position that when the patient lying upon it is on her left side the edge to which her back is turned is easily accessible to the attendant.

Mrs. Moakes says:—Attend to your own hands, see that they are perfectly clean, scrub for ten minutes with soap and water, then soak them in antiseptic solution, taking care never to touch your patient except with perfectly clean hands, doing everything in the quietest and quickest manner possible. Never ask a patient what to do. Do your duty—you know it.

Miss Bleazby states:—In preparing the room for a confinement case the main objects which we desire to attain are: (1) perfect cleanliness—*i.e.*, as great an absence of germs as possible, thus lessening the risk of sepsis to the patient; (2) the absence of an unnecessary quantity of furniture and knick-knacks, so that there may be plenty of room to move about and attend to the patient, and space to lay down the things necessary for use. (3) A good light.

Miss M. W. Foster, describing the labour bed, says:—Make the bed up with clean bottom sheet, pillow cases, draw sheet pinned with four safety pins to the sides of the bed. Over this put a full sized piece of mackintosh sheeting, cover with a sheet, and pin to the bed the same as before. Then make the bed in the ordinary way. Roll the top bedclothes down to the foot of the bed, having two extra blankets to cover the patient during labour. Fix a roller towel to the rail at the foot of the bed for the patient to pull on. After all is over remove the top draw sheet and mackintosh, and loose blankets, and place the top bedclothes, which are ready at the foot of the bed, over the patient.

Miss K. E. Denny points out that the first essential in preparing a room for a confinement case is its cleanliness. With this in view it is best to have only a few pictures and ornaments, and to cover the floor with linoleum, so that each day it can easily be wiped over with a damp cloth, thus ensuring the absence of fluff and dust.

QUESTION FOR THIS WEEK.

What care should bed-pans and like utensils, also spittoons, receive in order to prevent odour, and insure perfect cleanliness?

Rules for competing for this competition will be found on page xii.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, W., on Thursday, May 25th, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, being in the chair. There was a good attendance of members.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the President delivered the following address:—

NURSING ECONOMICS.

The optimistic temperament prefers to anticipate and look forward to success rather than to live either in the past or the present, but as it is from what we have accomplished in the past that we can gauge our success in the future, I propose to touch to-day on the economic condition of nursing, which is the crux of every question where legislation is concerned. It is close on a quarter of a century since the trained nurses in this country realised the necessity for professional organisation, and a few ardent spirits met together to discuss the question. Few of them realised—and it was lucky they did not—the almost insurmountable difficulties in the path which led to economic independence for a class of women workers than whom at that time no class was more dependent.

We may as well own the fact that from the moment the nurses attempted to co-operate to better their condition, all the forces of privilege and prejudice were let loose, and determinedly ranged against any attempt upon the part of the workers to think and act for themselves.

This is the land of commerce, and as a nation of shopkeepers it is useless to ignore its significance. We have in our struggle learned the simple lesson—that it is not safe, it is not compatible with either physical or spiritual evolution, that one human being should be at the mercy of another; and that hunger—common physical hunger, is the autocrat of human destiny. This is the rude, elementary, natural, somewhat brutalising law which compels the weak to demand the protection of the strong, and by the strong I allude to that corporate power comprised in the three estates of the Realm empowered to govern.

There is no moral influence strong enough to enforce just conditions of life for the weak in this Christian country. Human beings still

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