

When washing out the bladder, catheters need very great care, they should be warmed and oiled before passed into the orifice.

A little glycerine passed through indiarubber tubing or catheters prevents the rubber from perishing. When washing out the bladder always have a piece of muslin ready to strain all discharge; anything abnormal must be kept for the doctor's inspection and it is advisable in most cases to keep all discharges for the doctor's first visit.

A doctor is usually present when the bladder is washed out. These cases are very liable to collapse and a nurse should always have in readiness hot water bottles and hot blankets. Many nervous patients require careful handling and great tact and gentleness are needed; nurses should be very careful not to expose the patient more than is absolutely necessary, but a clear view of the parts must be obtained.

The temperature and consistency of solutions must be prepared in accordance to the doctor's directions.

Nurses should take great care of their hands, not only before, but after giving any kind of lavage, as all discharges are more or less infectious and some kinds are most virulent. Carelessness in this respect may mean the loss of an eye, an arm, or even a life. Rubber gloves and forceps are necessary in some cases.

Finally, I may mention the care of bedding, &c. Always use mackintoshes or jaconet to protect the bedding and clothing; a good nurse will leave little or no sign of soil, &c., on the bedding or clothing of the patient after giving any form of lavage.

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

"What accidents may occur to the child during delivery?"

#### THE MASK PRIZE.

There were eleven competitors for the Mask Prize, and we have pleasure in announcing that it has been awarded to Miss E. Hutchinson, Sister to Outpatients, Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

The Masks sent in were judged by Miss Huxley, Miss Musson and Miss Cutler, after the Matrons' Council Meeting on October 11th, and in awarding the prize they took into consideration utility, simplicity of construction and cost, and were of opinion that the pattern sent by Miss Hutchinson attained to the best practical standard. This Mask is made of two layers of cheap white gauze, cut the shape of a dress

preserver folded double, the rounded part is sewn together about an inch off the edge—the edges turned in and overcast, and a tape inserted. The rounded end fits under the chin, and the tape can be drawn and tied, either at the top of the head or round the ears and under the chin. This mask is cheap and quickly made, important considerations in a busy out-patient department.

#### HONOURABLE MENTION.

The Masks sent by Miss E. M. Pickford, trained at the General Infirmary, Hertford, Miss E. J. Marshall, London Association of Nurses, and Miss Edith B. Long, St. James' Infirmary, Balham, receive honourable mention. That sent by Miss Pickford has an oval wire frame of inhaler shape, the wire is wound round with tape, over which the gauze is gathered, the tape strings attached in centre of frame are slipped over the ears and tied under the chin. This is a perfect little Mask for comfort, as it is held off the nose and mouth by the crossed wire frame, and where a few are required would be excellent, but the judges thought the time it would require to make a disadvantage in a busy hospital.

The Mask sent by Miss Marshall was exceedingly nicely made, but as it required three safety pins to fix it on the head this was considered an unnecessary expense. Miss Marshall showed its application in miniature on a dear little porcelain baby's head—which was greatly admired.

Miss Long's Mask was constructed on much the same principle as that to which the Prize was awarded, it was neatly finished, bound with sarcel ribbon, and could be drawn by tape both top and bottom, the top strings to pass over the top of the ears, those which gathered the gauze under the chin to pass under the lobes of the ears, the four to be tied together at the top of the head.

The remaining competitors were: Miss Macfarlane, Miss Vellère, Miss S. A. G. Lett, Queen's Nurse, Miss L. Fox, Miss G. Tatham, Miss M. Bradley, and Miss M. Sadd. With one exception the Masks were made of white gauze (two layers are best), and all could be usefully employed with the exception of one, which had wool inserted between the gauze, and would be hot and uncomfortable in use.

#### MASKS ON VIEW.

The Prize Mask and those with "Honourable Mention" can be seen at the Office of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 431, Oxford Street, London, by nurses who would like to take the patterns for use in their work.

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