

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

MENTION THE PRINCIPAL POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE GENERAL CARE OF THE OPERATING ROOM.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss M. Dods, 123, New Bond Street, London, W., for her paper on the above subject.

### PRIZE PAPER.

To care for an operating-room the principal points necessary are cleanliness, including ventilation, heating, order. In hospitals and where there is a permanent theatre these are comparatively easy to keep perfect.

*Cleanliness.*—Floors must be washed. Walls, ledges, furniture should be dusted with a damp cloth, to keep the air as free as possible from dust. Fixed basins and sinks require frequent attention. Traps need the screw at the bottom of syphon removed and flushed with boiling soda water, followed by strong antiseptic fluid. Electric bulbs must be particularly well dusted.

*Ventilation* must be seen to, care being taken not to open windows on a very windy day shortly before operation, otherwise a good deal of dust will gain admission. If necessary to have them open, fix two layers of clean damp butter muslin across the opening by strong drawing pins.

*Heating.*—Have the room as near as possible to 70 degrees F. for the patient's sake. Hotter than this is inconvenient to surgeon.

*Order* must necessarily prevail, the rule being a place for everything and everything returned to its place as soon as possible after use.

Sterilizers, lamps, irrigators, etc., must be seen to daily, and defects remedied. If kettles are used for boiling water, they must frequently be cleansed from the fur which collects, due to hard water. All soiled dressings must be removed and destroyed as soon as possible. Never leave stains on the floor or furniture to be washed *presently*. In fact, everything must be kept ready for any emergency.

In private houses things differ. Unless one has 36 hours' notice it is best not to attempt a general spring cleaning. The dust accumulated in the average house is appalling from a surgeon's point of view. Cleanse the room as much as possible, removing carpet, hangings, and superfluous furniture, having due regard to the necessity of freedom from dust in the atmosphere. Do not forget windows may be overlooked; hang a clean muslin curtain across window. A clear fire helps ventilation as well as heating. Movable lights need special attention and cleansing. Do not use polished tables or furniture for operations. Have everything

necessary for use before the surgeons start work, to avoid opening doors.

### HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss M. Punchard, Miss K. Robinson, Miss D. Johnson, Miss Macfarlane, Miss C. Dobson, Miss G. Saunders.

Miss M. Punchard writes: "The daily cleaning should be done by means of damp cloths wrung out of hot soda water containing some antiseptic or disinfectant soap, or soap powder. No sweeping should be done with a dry broom; in reaching to the ceiling the brush or broom can be covered with a damp duster. Every part of the theatre should be subjected to this damp cleaning daily—the walls, ceiling, shelves, and floor—the windows having been opened widely previously to ventilate. No dust should be allowed to collect anywhere. . . . Nurses working in the theatre should pay special attention to their hands, hair, and clothing, that each and all are quite clean. Anyone nursing an infectious case, especially erysipelas, should not be allowed in the theatre."

Miss K. Robinson mentions the necessity for keeping doors shut, so that dust may not be admitted from staircase and passages.

### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What symptoms would lead you to suspect puerperal thrombosis of the lower extremities?

## THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AT COLOGNE.

Fraulein Karll writes from Cologne, where she is deeply immersed in Congress organization, that slight alterations will be made in the Programme. One thing has been found quite impossible—the presentment of the original Nursing Pageant in its entirety, owing to the insuperable difficulty of staging it with those who are not able to be present until immediately before the Congress; but the Cologne ladies mean to adapt it in a manner we feel sure will be deeply interesting to those present. Sister Karll says "they will make a very beautiful thing of it—living pictures of 'The German History of Nursing,' the different phases of it—to end with the pageant idea of all the historical characters we can get in one group, and a group of modern nurses from all countries—so we want all the pageant characters you can bring and all your banners. Our pageant is to be called 'The Triumph of Hygeia.' You know they have a fine sense of art here, and we are to have splendid music; the organ in the Gürzenich is very fine, and

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