

POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

WE are pleased to be able to announce that the third of this series of examination questions has been most heartily responded to, a still increasing number of competitors having entered for it, the following having secured the prize of a book or books of the value of five shillings :—

Mertie Powell (Private Nurse) 12, The Crescent, Birmingham.

"Best method of cleaning sponges after using for surgical purposes."

- (1) Wash sponges thoroughly from all discharge in a solution of Carbolic acid (strength 1 in 20), then through 3. other hot water containing same strength of Carbolic.
- (2) This done put them into a basin of Carbolic solution (strength 1 in 10) cover over, and allow them to remain so for 12 hours.
- (3) Wring out sponges, place in a clean towel and put them in a warm place to dry. When dry put into a clean linen bag and hang in a clean dry place ready for use.

"I am a joint subscriber and obtain 'The Nursing Record' from the office St. Thos. à Becket's House, Fetter Lane."

We particularly desire to draw our readers' attention to the examination question given in this issue.

*** Some other answers received and deserving honourable mention.*

"Describe the Best Method of Cleaning Sponges after Using Them for Surgical Purposes."

MISS HELEN N. ANDERSON, M.B.N.A. :—

The best method of cleaning sponges is to thoroughly wash them in a solution of carbolic acid (cold) 1:20, till quite free from blood, then soak for an hour in the same strength of solution (hot), rinse in plenty of water, pass a thread through each sponge to form a loop and hang in the open air till dry.

MISS LILLY JAMES :—

Ten or twelve sponges in number are placed in a gallon of water in which half-a-pound of sodium hyposulphite has been dissolved, increase solution according to number of sponges; add four ounces of oxalic acid. The sponges must not remain in the solution longer than ten minutes, then wash them many times in water to get rid of all the sulphur. Dip them in 1:20 carbolic acid and dry artificially.

MRS. SARAH DUYCK :—

To cleanse sponges, take three pints, or two quarts, of warm water, in which put half-a-pound

of common salt; well wash the sponges in this, then rinse in cold water. Next put half-a-pound of salt in three quarts of cold water, and allow the sponges to remain in it for twelve hours; then rinse them well in cold water. Sponges when treated in this manner will be rendered equal to new.

MISS SARAH CLAYTON, M.B.N.A. :—

The best method for cleansing sponges after using is, in ordinary cases, to steep them in a concentrated solution of washing soda; then wash them in water until scentless, and store in five per cent. of carbolic acid.

SISTER LOUISA YOUNG :—

The sponges ought to be thoroughly washed in one-thirty-nine carbolic solution, and after that rinsed in repeated supplies of tepid water until perfectly clean.

MISS LIZZIE BLACKBURN :—

Wash them well in cold water, squeeze them out, and pour boiling water over them; allow them to remain a short time; then remove them, and put them in a solution of carbolic acid one in forty.

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