

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

DESCRIBE YOUR METHOD OF CARING FOR RUBBER GLOVES INCLUDING THEIR STERILIZATION, THE DISCOVERY OF HOLES, AND THEIR REPAIR.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Elizabeth Martin, Uffington, Stamford, Lincs.

PRIZE PAPER.

Rubber gloves are at the present day a very great care in most hospitals, and much—or shall I say everything—depends upon their absolute cleansing, careful sterilization, and repair.

After having washed and prepared gloves in various ways, I find the following method the best:—

“After use,” wash all gloves thoroughly in a soap solution, ammonia, and water, and well rinse to free them from soap, boil for not more than five minutes (*without soda*). After boiling rinse again in a solution of biniodide 1-5000, turn them, and at the same time test for punctures, &c., then thoroughly dry on both sides, keeping separate those needing repair.

The “whole” gloves are now thoroughly cleansed, and are in readiness for further use, which if worn “wet” only require pairing, and each separate pair is put into a small “cotton bag” (having the wearers name attached), boiled for 15 minutes and placed in a large sterile bowl, containing tepid sterile water, until required to be worn. Give a separate bowl, for every pair of gloves.

The bag not only affords a protection for the gloves, during the whole process of sterilization, but a covering for one hand until the first glove is drawn on to the opposite hand, the bag is now put on one side, and the remaining glove is *only handled*, by the already gloved hand.

Many surgeons prefer “dry” sterilized gloves, and after the cleansing is done as described above and the gloves thoroughly dried, they are mated and packed up for sterilizing in the following way:—

Well powder, inside and out, this being done, place a piece of folded gauze down each glove, reaching from the wrist, to the fingers, and the full width of the glove, put the two gloves together, and between them, put another piece of folded gauze, but this piece must be the full length of the gloves (the idea being that no two layers of rubber, should come in contact with each other during the process of sterilizing), place a swab of French chalk in with each pair of gloves.

The gloves are now folded in linen, and several pairs may be prepared in this way

separately, and the whole quantity put together in an outer “stronger packet” and sterilized, or they may be placed in their separate smaller wrappers (which have the wearer’s names attached) and packed in a drum for sterilizing.

The powder swab enclosed with the gloves is for the hands, after they have gone through the necessary preparation, and the strip of gauze placed in the wrist of each glove, may be used, for the glove to be taken up by; and drawn on to the hand.

(Any thin cotton material, may be used for the “above” instead of gauze, if preferred.)

The discovery of holes, and repair &c. :—

The gloves are now in a “dry” condition after being cleansed, and the punctures are easily discovered, if the glove is well inflated and held up to the face the smallest holes are quickly detected, as the least escape of air can be felt, and in this way the gloves are kept dry, ready for patching.

Holes may be discovered by inflating the glove and then placing in water, but this is a very trying method, necessitating much more work, and time spent, in the drying of the gloves over and over again.

The gloves must be perfectly dry and free from grease, *but not powdered* before repairing; the hole having been found, and a suitable patch chosen (which must be a little larger than the hole) the patch is now smeared with rubber solution and fixed.

A glass rod will be found very useful when applying the solution:—

Well powder all the repaired gloves inside and out, and prepare for “wet” or “dry” sterilization as required—when mating them, care must be taken, to have the patches worn next to the hand, and when repairing after the first time, the patches must always be on the one side of the glove.

The above method will be found quite easy and simple, and “absolutely thorough” for the preparation of all “Theatre” or “Ward” gloves.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention, Miss Anne Simpson, Miss Alberta Sheffield, Miss T. Robinson, Miss B. James, Miss Mary M. Smith, Miss J. Hunt, Miss O’Brien.

Miss Simpson’s admirable paper was disqualified for the prize owing to its exceeding the limit of 750 words.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What points should be noticed about the dejections of infants and what do they indicate.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)