

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

STATE ARTICLES REQUIRED FOR AN OPERATION
IN A PRIVATE HOUSE.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Cicely M. Spinney, West Street, Warwick.

PRIZE PAPER.

The nurse, if possible, arrives the day before the operation. She must choose a very light, airy room. Take down all curtains, pictures, and ornaments; take up the carpet; then sweep the walls, wash all paint, and scrub the floor with disinfectant. Next select five tables: one narrow, strong one for the operation; one for the anæsthetist; two for the surgeons; one for bowls, &c. A washstand, a stool for anæsthetist, and two chairs should also be in the room. All these things should be washed over with a disinfectant, and tables covered with sterilized sheets.

Special tables to be prepared as follows:—

Operation Table.—Blanket, sheet, pillow, mackintosh covered with towel under site of wound, small blanket to cover the patient.

Anæsthetic Table.—Vomit bowl; bowl of swabs for mouth; two or three large handkerchiefs; brandy, spoon, medicine glass, and water.

Washstand.—Two jugs and basins; soap; two penny nailbrushes, sterilised and placed in lotion; bowl of lotion for hands; sterile lint in methylated or rectified spirit.

A few odd things that should not be forgotten are:—(1) A zinc bath for dirty water; (2) large basin or pail for soiled dressings; (3) tin tray with soda and matches for surgeon's steriliser; (4) string to tie oxygen cylinder to leg of table if oxygen is given during the anæsthetic; (5) scissors and packet of wool; (6) a clock.

A sheet should be nailed on the floor under the operating table. A thermometer must be in the room.

Sterilise by boiling nine basins or pie-dishes; six face towels. Have ready three jugs of cold sterile water. All sterile things must be carefully covered over.

On the day of operation the fire in operating room must be lighted early, as temperature of room should be about 75°. Plenty of hot sterile water in jugs, a kettle of boiling water in the room. Hot bottle for operating table.

One or two extra pillows would be useful for propping patient in different positions. A nurse should see that there is strong coffee ready for enema if required.

The surgeon usually brings his own dress-

ings; if he does not do this, the nurse must obtain them.

I have said that the nurse should sterilise six face towels, this should be done even if the surgeon brings his own.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss Dorothy Maton, Miss Lily Barraclough, Miss Dora Vine, Miss Jeanie F. L. Dawson, Miss Elinor Sheard, Miss F. Sheppard, Miss Beatrice Smith, Miss O'Brien, Miss Eva M. Chapman.

Miss Beatrice Smith writes:—

The one and all-important fact to be kept in mind in preparing for a surgical operation in a private house is to exercise the most scrupulous cleanliness in all things surgical, otherwise great disaster may result to the patient.

The room chosen for the operation should be one adjoining the sick room where possible, but sometimes there is no other available but the sick room. Where an adjoining room is obtainable it should be thoroughly cleaned throughout, and if all but necessary furniture be removed, so much the better. Bare boards or linoleum on the floor is preferable to carpet, but if a carpet floor is inevitable, the carpet, after being thoroughly swept with a broom covered with a damp cloth, must be covered with sheets. Good light is essential, and a large window admitting plenty of light is necessary. Where neighbours can see through, it is advisable to cover the lower portion of the window with a thin muslin curtain. If the operation is to take place by artificial light and at night-time, care must be taken that the light and operating table be arranged in such a manner that there is ample illumination on the patient.

In preparing a room for an operation, with furniture available in a private house, all articles of furniture used, as well as the floor, should, as far as possible, be covered with sterilized sheets.

It is advisable that the nurse should take with her, on hire, a complete outfit for an aseptic operation, such as is supplied by several trained nurses' societies, including an operation table, side table, anæsthetist's stool, lithotomy crutch, steriliser for bowls, bottles for lotions, jugs with covers, and all necessary appliances, as well as sterilized dressings.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What is the cause of tuberculosis? What organs and tissues may be attacked in this disease? Give a brief description of the treatment and management of any two forms of tuberculosis.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)