

ley's Oriental Café," Miss Leonard, Richmond Hospital.

The following costumes displayed great taste and originality:—"Noblett's Toffee," Miss Strafford (this costume was exceedingly well got up, but was disqualified as it cost more than the stated price, 2s. 6d.); "Mill's Ice Cream," Miss Foot; "McClintock's Soap," Miss Morten; "Oxo," Miss Shorten; "Irish and Proud of it," Miss Clery; "Neave's Food," Miss Hounihan; "Scott's Marmalade," Miss Bluns.

SOPHIE JEFFERS, *Secretary.*

PRACTICAL POINTS.

A Suggestion for a New "Bowel Pack."

Mr. J. L. Aymard, M.R.C.S., of Johannesburg, describing in the *Lancet* his suggestion for a new "bowel pack," writes:—

"In introducing this simple contrivance to the notice of the profession I do so more to meet the difficulties experienced by general surgeons like myself than to offer assistance to those who never find any difficulties in any circumstances. The ordinary 'bowel pack' is, I think, open to objections. Indeed, to start with, the packing of protruding bowel with many feet of gauze pads, etc., is to my mind unscientific, takes time, unnecessarily blocks a limited space, and in the end does not always attain its object. Something is required completely to shut off the bowels from the area to be operated upon, which does not take up unnecessary space, which can be easily moulded, and will retain its position.

"To meet these requirements I coil fine wire between two layers of lint. The fine wire gives a certain amount of weight, and it can be moulded and bent into any shape. These pads can be made by any nurse. A piece of lint the size of the pad required is simply laid flat, then starting from the centre the fuse wire is coiled in oblong fashion, tacked at each corner at first, and down the long sides as the oblong enlarges, until the lint is covered; a second piece of lint is then placed over the wire and sewn round. I use pads varying in size from 15 or 18 inches by 10 to 9 by 5. For large size pads I use what is known as 5-amp. fuse wire, and for smaller ones 3-amp. wire. The wire should be one-third of an inch apart in the large and one-quarter in the small. It is convenient to use the wire coiled upon its original reel. Only one precaution is suggested—namely, to begin and end the wire with a small loop so as to leave no free point. The pad can be thoroughly sterilised by boiling and squeezed out in warm saline before use.

"To illustrate the advantage of this pad I will briefly quote a recent case when the contrivance proved very valuable. A lady was sent to me with a large fat abdomen, presenting a central scar. To the left of the scar was a large rounded

swelling, diagnosed on several occasions as a ventral hernia. Vaginal examination disclosed a displaced uterus and little more. I made a large oval skin incision and removed the scar, together with a two-inch thickness of fat. A good view could then be obtained. The left rectus was thinned and bulged up by some underlying tumour. I next opened the old scar and peritoneum, and at once introduced one of my largest pads with its long axis transversely.

"In introducing the pad I had pressed it together, then opened out and packed well down to the post abdominal wall, then pushed the upper edge well under the anterior wall above the umbilicus. Next I pressed the whole of the pad upwards. The tumour, a right ovarian cyst measuring about 8 inches by 8, presented itself quite free from any bowel. I then freed the cyst, carefully tied it off with tape, clamped and sutured in the usual way. The pad was then removed quite easily without any disturbance of the bowels.

"I have found this pad very useful in packing bowel away from large appendix and pyosalpinx abscesses and in various other abdominal operations. The necessity to use only one pad does away with many anxieties and achieves a definite object."

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Gower and Oystermouth Hospital, near Swansea.—Miss Mabel M. Rasser has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Pontypridd General Hospital, and has had six years' experience in infectious nursing, during part of which time she held the position of Sister and Deputy Matron at the Scarborough Fever and Small-pox Hospital.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Bethnal Green Infirmary, Cambridge Heath, N.E.—Mrs. F. M. Telfer (*née* Gibson) has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Great Northern Central Hospital, and has been Sister at the Grimsby and District Hospital, Assistant Matron at the Epileptic Colony, Liverpool, Night Superintendent at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, Out-patient Sister at the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, W., and Assistant Matron at the General Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A.

Union Infirmary, Bridport Road, Upper Edmon-ton, N.—Miss G. A. Wickham has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the General Hospital, Stockport; and has held the position of temporary Matron and Ward Sister at the Ilford Isolation Hospital; Night Sister and Ward Sister at the Portsmouth Infirmary and at the Bradford Union Hospital; Theatre Sister and Ward Sister at the Burnley Union Infirmary; Ward Sister at St. Pancras Infirmary; and Assistant Matron at the Norwich Fever Hospital. She is a certified midwife.

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