

"In this garb the operator prepares his hands and arms for his surgical work. Having finished with this process, he proceeds to don his sterile operating-room gown, with the assistance of a nurse. It should be of a medium-weight cotton fabric. The fabric known as 'galatea' is a very desirable one. The gown should fit comfortably, and have a length that reaches to the ankles. Its sleeves should extend to the wrist, so that the operator may experience no difficulty in putting on his rubber gloves.

"As a precaution and additional safeguard, it has been my custom to wear a pair of sterile bags or mittens over my gloved hands while the patient is being prepared for operation. These mittens are very loose, and reach up to the elbow. They are made of medium heavy duck, which gives them a certain amount of stiffness, thus facilitating the placing of the gloved hands into them.

"Some surgeons wrap a towel moistened with a 1:5000 bichloride solution, or with a normal salt solution, about their hands. This answers the same purpose, that of an auxiliary protection, while the final preparation of the patient is made. My preference is given to the mittens, on account of their simplicity and their perfect protection. The idea was adopted by me after having seen Dr. Franklin Brady, surgeon to the Roosevelt Hospital, in Philadelphia, wear them."

Dr. Francis Reder registers an expression of condemnation of the surgeon who operates in his undershirt. "This is a base fault," he says, "a surgical sin."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

Was our question on the iodine treatment of diphtheria too puzzling, or was the holiday season responsible for the dearth of suitable replies? We regret that we are unable to award a prize.

Iodine, as employed by Dr. A. H. Thomas in the treatment of diphtheria, is applied in the form of ointment, containing 5 per cent. of free iodine. Three cotton-wool mops are used in this method, two to remove the secretions and false membrane and to dry the affected surface; the third, after smearing it with the ointment, is thoroughly rubbed over the inflamed tissue and surrounding areas. These applications are repeated every three hours, or, in severe cases, every two hours, until improvement occurs.

Dr. Thomas has had excellent results with cases so treated.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses at 1, Tavistock Place, W.C., is already being widely used, and in fine weather tea can be enjoyed in the garden at the back, an uncommon privilege in the centre of London much appreciated by the guests. One of the privileges of the Hostel is that any nurse requiring medical or dental treatment receives it free of charge while there. Friends of the Hostel are also kind in sending concert and theatre tickets, so that the visit of the guests is made very pleasant to them. Amongst those who have shared its hospitality are a number of Canadian nurses and one from New Zealand.

The following Canadian nurses arrived last Saturday and are awaiting orders at Queen Mary's Hostel:—Miss Myrtle C. Burt, Miss Lulu A. Charlton, Miss Ethel R. Cook, Miss Martha S. Fletcher, Miss Eleanora H. Kirkby, Miss Margaret J. Landells, Miss Eleanor Milne, Miss Lily McCallum, Miss K. McGrath, R.N., Miss Sarah Payne, Miss Fanny E. Pike, Miss Elizabeth J. Reed, Miss Ellen Sagar, Miss Ethel Villeneuve, Miss Elizabeth Winters.

Lady Llangattock received a party of these Canadian nurses at South Lodge, Rutland Gate, on Monday, when Sir Robert Borden, who was amongst the guests, and addressed the nurses told them how proud he was of what the Canadians had done in connection with Red Cross work. He had visited their hospitals in England and France, and they were most excellently conducted in every respect. He had met both British and Canadian soldiers and officers in these hospitals, and it was really pathetic to see with what courage and patience they bore their sufferings. Boys of 17 to 20, severely wounded, endured all their suffering with an infinite patience that was most touching. At one hospital he addressed 870 Canadian convalescents, and he was never more moved than he was by the bearing and appearance of the men with whom he spoke—their brave faces, eager, intent eyes, and not merely their willingness, but their anxiety, to return to the front, and again perform the duty which they had so splendidly discharged on the battlefields of France and Belgium.

Our illustration shows a group of wounded soldiers, and their nurses at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester. In the centre of the group is the Matron, Miss Vincent, to whose courtesy we are indebted for this picture. As our readers are aware Miss Vincent is not only Matron of the Royal Infirmary, but Principal Matron of the 5th Northern Division, Territorial Force Nursing Service, the uniform of which she is wearing.

A Scottish correspondent sends us the following

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