

of sterilizing hoppers, so that excreta would not have to be taken long distances.

In my old hospital at Brooklyn we used a large rubber sheet over the muslin cover, and that seemed to serve all practical purposes.

Per G. J. H.

HARRIET S. HARTRY,  
*Superintendent.*

This problem is really of great importance. We have therefore included it in the Prize Competition questions for January.

#### COMPARISON OF THE WHITE WITH THE BLACK OPERATING SHEET.

The *Modern Hospital* advances the following reasons for the preference of a black instead of a white operating sheet:—

Vision depends on reflection. If a dark sheet is used the wound reflects more strongly than the sheet because the latter absorbs much of the light.

If a light sheet is used, it reflects more than the wound, the sheet reflection predominating; hence the wound is poorly seen, whereas with a dark cover the wound reflection predominates.

The advantages of a dark sheet are that it absorbs light, rests the eye, and the predominating reflection is from the wound.

The disadvantages of the white sheet are that it reflects strongly, tires the eyes and produces feeble contrast.

It is contrast that is desired. The dark sheet is to the surgeon what the dark room is to the ophthalmologist.

#### THE USE OF LEAD IN OPERATING ROOMS.

At the up-to-date Minnequa Hospital of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company at Pueblo, Colorado, U.S.A., the operating room is a decided innovation, as it is lined throughout with sheet lead. On the floor the lead weighs twelve pounds to the square foot, and on the sides and ceiling six pounds. The ceiling slopes to carry any

condensation of moisture to the sides. The room is sterilised with live steam. It is heated by the indirect system. Screened air is forced into the room and the air from the room is exhausted by electric fans. Light is admitted from but one side, the north, thus preventing cross lights. The walls are dark, absorbing light, which is a relief to the operator.

Lead is waterproof, non-absorbent and crackless, thus affording no lodging places for germs and admitting of thorough cleaning. It is air-tight and waterproof, not easily damaged and if punctured is readily repaired; it expands and contracts without fracture, is noiseless, not slippery, and does not reflect light. What more can one ask?

Is it possible that the ideal flooring for

which we have searched so long has been found?

The room in which anaesthetics are administered is painted green and decorated with pictures and frames in sepia and other browns—colours which psychologists say are least irritating to the brain.



WHITE OPERATING SHEET.



BLACK OPERATING SHEET.

#### LEGAL MATTERS.

The Rhyl magistrates have sent a young woman named Anne Williams to prison for four months with hard labour for a series of thefts committed by her under the guise of a Red Cross nurse. She was stated to be a native of Llandudno, but now of no fixed abode.

In the Rhyl district she obtained lodgings at Rhud-dlan by saying she was a Red Cross nurse and her luggage was at the station. She stole a watch while the owner was otherwise engaged, and then went to St. Asaph. Here she got lodgings and deposited the watch as security for a loan of 1s. 6d. Here she stole two purses from the landlady who befriended her, and went off.

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