

By fixing two clips on the main tube a given quantity—e.g., 3 i to 3 ii—is allowed to flow into the wound, usually at intervals of two hours, by relaxing the lower clip.

Should this apparatus not be available, the fluid can be injected into the tubes with a syringe, in which case, should it be a six-way or more connection, care must be taken not to tilt the tube more than necessary, or obviously the fluid will flow chiefly down the farthest tube, and thus be unevenly distributed; and also the tubes must be secured to the upper surface by tape or pins, otherwise the fluid will syphon out.

Having carefully arranged the tubes within the wound, the dressing is completed by lightly packing with gauze.

As the fluid has an irritating effect on the skin, it must be protected by sterile vaseline spread on gauze and made to fit accurately to the edges of the wound. Finally, over all is wrapped a large pad composed of an inner layer of absorbent wool and an outer layer of non-absorbent wool, the whole being encased in gauze; this is secured with clips or tape, and through it the tubes are brought out where most convenient.

In changing the dressing the surrounding skin should be freshened up with oleate of soda.

Amongst the advantages of the treatment are:—

1. Its comfort, as the patient never suffers the pain due to the sticking or dragging of dried dressings.

2. The patient is saved the pain of frequent dressing, once in twenty-four hours, and in some cases every other day, being sufficient.

3. In cases requiring further operative treatment it can be sooner undertaken without risk, as in a comparatively short time the number of septic micro-organisms will be found to be reduced to nil.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss Ethel E. Hall, Miss Lucy E. Beeby, Miss M. Tomlinson, Miss J. Jameson, Miss N. Whitehouse, Miss R. Yeomans. The papers of the first two competitors were especially excellent, so that there was some difficulty in awarding the Prize.

Miss E. Hall writes:—"About 200 anti-septics were experimented with before Dakin's Solution was perfected. Since then the solution has been in constant use, and its success has been remarkable."

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

How would you recognize perforation in a case of enteric fever? What immediate action would you take, and how could you temporarily relieve the patient?

THE IMPERIAL NURSES' CLUB.

THE BIRTHDAY WEEK.

A morning call is always more or less of an intrusion, especially when the lady one wishes to see is as busy as Miss Mayers, of the Imperial Nurses' Club, 137, Ebury Street, S.W. It is, however, the busy people who most readily forgive an intrusion, and so I was most courteously received by her, out of calling hours. The establishment of the Imperial Nurses' Club, which was a dubious venture in war time, has proved justified. Everything about it makes its claim to popularity. The decoration of the rooms is restful and artistic, which, I believe—although she does not say so—is the expression of the Hon. Secretary's taste.

The Drawing-room and the Rest Room are all that their names suggest. The colour scheme of mauve and white in the Drawing-room is particularly soft and attractive, but the *pièce de résistance* is a sweet-sounding grand piano which is being made special use of this week—the birthday week. Every afternoon and evening members of the Musical Profession give concerts—instrumental and vocal—to an appreciative audience of Club Members—lucky members! The style of music may be imagined when one mentions such names as Mrs. Leedham Crowe, composer and pianist, Miss Dorothy Forster, Miss Hirstfield, and other musicians, and the following singers:—Miss Chamneys, Miss Saurmarez Smith, Miss Una Marriott, Mrs. Buckingham and Miss Dunlop Smith.

Some of these ladies, who are so kindly giving their services for the enjoyment and edification of the Nurses, bring their pupils.

Those who are able to avail themselves of the rich feast of music which is being provided with such lavish generosity during a whole week, will be most fortunate. It is to be hoped that those who have been doing, or are doing strenuous war nursing, will be among the number, for assuredly no better nerve tonic could be taken! I have had the privilege of going all over the Club, which is also residential, and that it supplies a need and is greatly appreciated goes without saying. Meals can be had at any reasonable time, on the Restaurant principle, and the tariff is (for war time especially) extraordinarily low. No member is allowed more than a week's residence at one time, without special permission, but it is open to all to do what one member is doing—take a room near by, at the conclusion of the week, and spend the day at the Club, receiving all its advantages.

One word in conclusion, and perhaps the best.

Miss Mayers has a theory, and demonstrates it, to the great advantage of the members of the Club. The cultivation of a taste for the beautiful is a necessary condition of happiness and mind-restfulness; this she endeavours practically to inculcate. A cordial welcome and all the rest which is embodied in the all-comprehensive word, *hospitality*, await every guest.

B. K.

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