

dreams, defects in sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch, loss of sensation, and power, are included under subjective symptoms.

The general principles underlying the nursing of all medical cases, as well as the nursing of particular cases are then given under the headings: diseases of the digestive system, of the mouth, of the œsophagus, of the stomach, of the intestines, the respiratory system, the organs of circulation, of the blood, general constitutional diseases, &c., while the symptoms and appropriate nursing are described in detail. Special chapters are devoted to the nursing of specific infective diseases, diseases of the nervous system, mental nursing, and diseases of the skin. Those who consider medical nursing an art so unimportant as to be unworthy of their attention are likely to revise their opinion if they carefully study these chapters.

In connection with surgical nursing, the general technique is first described, and then the healing of wounds, by (1) the antiseptic method, (2) the aseptic method, (3) a combination of the two.

In connection with the theatre dress of the nurse, the following warning is given:—"It must be borne in mind that dry sterilized articles do not remain sterile when exposed to the air. For instance, the dry sterilized towels require to be changed once or twice during an operation, if it is of long duration.

"Nurses must avoid touching their overalls when the hands have been purified, as the overall is no longer sterile after it has been on for a short time. It is a great fallacy to suppose that a dry sterilized overall or cap will remain sterile throughout one or more operations." The preparation of the patient, of the room, and for subsequent dressings is described. A chapter is devoted to anæsthetics, local and general, complications such as obstructed respiration and cardiac failure, and post-anæsthetic complications such as anæsthetic burns, post-anæsthetic vomiting, and delayed chloroform poisoning.

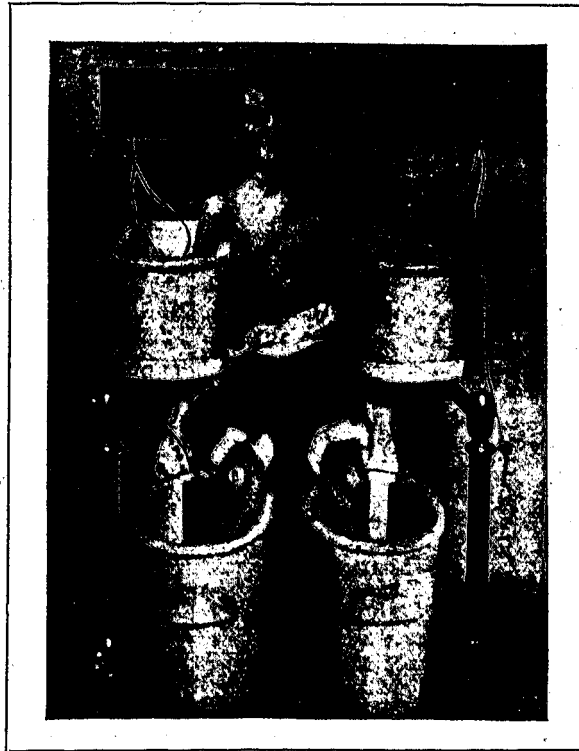
A number of operations and their nursing are then described, and the first-aid and after treatment of accidental wounds and injuries, and complications of wounds.

The nursing of children is next considered, for which branch love of children is essential. "The nurse should be bright, cheerful and merry, yet sympathetic and tender, observant, firm but kind. Children take to a nurse more quickly as a rule if she is short and plump."

A considerable amount of information is compressed into the chapters on ophthalmic nursing and the nursing of the ear, throat and nose. Our first illustrations show the method of holding a child during examination of the nose and throat. "The nurse sits upright on a chair and places the child sitting on her knee. The child's back should be against the nurse's chest, the legs hanging down in front of the nurse's knees. The child's head rests on the nurse's chest or shoulder,

the nurse holding it in position with her right hand placed on the forehead, the nurse's left hand holds the child's arms to its side, the nurse's legs are crossed over the child's legs. If the child is very unmanageable, it is advisable to pinion its arms by rolling it in a sheet, and then proceed as above. (See illustrations on page 18.)

Other chapters deal with gynaecological nursing, obstetrical nursing, massage, and medical electricity. In this connection, our illustration shows Schnee's four-cell electric bath. "The patient sits in a chair, both the legs are placed in deep porcelain baths made on purpose, reaching nearly to the knees, the arms flexed at the elbows are placed in other baths not quite



SCHNEE'S FOUR-CELL ELECTRIC BATH.

so deep. Each bath is fitted with a carbon held in place by fitting into a slot, the carbon is connected by terminals and rheophores to the battery. Each bath is filled three parts full of tepid water, rendered slightly saline. Care must be taken to see that the limbs are not in contact with the carbons; or blistering may result. The current is then turned on slowly until the prescribed amount is reached. The bath lasts from ten to fifteen minutes. Faradic, sinusoidal, or galvanic electricity may be given by this method. A nurse should not move about near the patient during the bath if the wires rest on the ground, as shoe buckles, buttons, &c., have a facility for catching them. The sudden breaking of the current when

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)