

POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

WE are pleased to be able to announce that in the *twenty-fifth* of this series of examination questions—

"What is the meaning of the term 'Disinfection'? and give some of the commonest means employed for its accomplishment"—

NURSE ETHEL KNOLLYS, whose card we reproduce, has secured the prize of a book or books of the value of five shillings:—

*Nurse Ethel Knollys -
Royal Hospital, Waterloo Bridge Road
S. 2*

What is the meaning of the word "disinfection" & give some of the commonest means employed for its accomplishment?

By disinfection is meant; the usage of a mechanical or other agent which has the power to destroy miasmata, prevent, decompose & render harmless the growth of septic organisms.

By absolute cleanliness & free ventilation, by treating the various excretions with some of the following disinfectants such as—

*Carbolic acid
Permanganate of potash
Corrosive sublimate
Chloride of lime
Sulphurous fumes
Condy's fluid etc*

August 11th 1891.

The following have gained HONOURABLE MENTION:—

MISS EMILY SANDERSON, M.R.B.N.A. :—

The term "disinfection" means the destroying and prevention of the growth of septic organisms. Half-an-ounce of permanzanate of potash, dissolved in a gallon of water, causes disinfection. In infectious cases all vessels should be freely rinsed with it. A sheet saturated with the same, or with a solution of Sanitas (equal fluid and water), hung outside and inside the door of the

sick room, and kept saturated, will cause disinfection. Sanitas is a powerful germicide, and best disinfectant. The fumes of sulphurous acid, and exposure to a temperature of not less than 212 Fahr. To thoroughly cleanse rooms after fevers, all doors, windows, and chimneys should be closed, and curtains taken down; then the sulphur is put into a metallic dish, a little alcohol is poured on it, and it is lighted. One pound of sulphur for every thousand cubic feet of space. After three hours the doors and windows can be opened, and kept so for twenty-four or thirty-six hours. Heat of a temperature of 250 Fahr. is the best agent for disinfecting clothes, bedding, &c. During infectious illness, carbolic acid, Sanitas, or chlornated lime should be placed about the room; clothes dipped, in a weak solution of carbolic acid (one part to two hundred or three hundred of water) and hung up.

NURSE REDDOCH, L.O.S. :—

Disinfection is the act of destroying or rendering inert specific contagia of communicable disease. Abundant oxygen is the best disinfectant; therefore, in all cases of infectious disease, free ventilation is of the first importance. Heat and cold are also powerful disinfectants—the former as a means of immediate disinfection of contaminated garments, bedding, &c., by boiling or baking them for some hours in a disinfecting oven, at a temperature of not less than 220 Fahr. The most powerful and rapid of the liquid disinfectants in general use is the solution of bichloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate)—one to 1,000—about 15 grains to the quart. There is nothing better than this for scouring walls, floors, beds, &c.; also for disinfecting vessels, sinks, and drains. Chlorine and sulphurous acid are also of great practical utility. The latter is usually preferred for fumigation, which is accomplished in the following manner:—close the doors, windows, fire-place, and paste strips of paper closely over all the cracks; all drawers and cupboards should be left wide open, and clothing hung up. Put the sulphur in an iron pan, allowing two pounds for every 1,000 cubic feet of space. Rest the pan firmly on a pair of tongs over a pail of water as a prevention against fire, pour a little alcohol over the sulphur, and ignite. Leave the room quickly, and paste up the door like the others; keep it closed for twenty-four hours; then open all the windows, and let the room air for as much longer.

NURSE TURNER :—

The term disinfection means *purification*, or *without infection*. We apply the term in connection with the destruction of contagious germs

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