

Sometimes drugs, such as "Sodium Nucleinate" and "Phagocytin," a proprietary preparation, are given to induce a "leucocytosis," and so increase the resistance to any bacteria that may have gained entrance in spite of the precautions.

All surgeons have their own special skin preparations, and favoured antiseptic lotions; the following are a list of some in general use in all Hospitals:—

For the removal of fat.

Ether, Turpentine.

Absolute alcohol, or Acetone—followed by efficient Antiseptic lotions, such as:—

Iodine ($2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.). Picric acid as a 2 per cent. to a 5 per cent. solution in methylated spirit. Harrington's Solution. 1-1,000 Binioidid Solution, or a 1 per cent. Iodine in Carbon Tetra-chlor solution.

Antiseptic lotions for the dressings of wounds are—

Paraffin—Flavin 1 in 1,000. Hypochlorite of Soda (0.5 per cent.). The latter forms a compound with the proteins of the exudation (blood and serum), and is thereby decomposed, but the compound (a chlorine) is itself an antiseptic.

Normal Saline, Boracic, Carbolic 1-60, Picric acid in spirit, Eusol, Dakin's solution and others might be mentioned.

At the present day it seems to be the aim of the surgeons to keep up the patient's strength with good nourishing food, to enable him to produce his own anti-toxins, and a healthy granulation tissue.

It should be noted that Picric acid sometimes causes a skin rash, and when using Dakin's Solution, the skin for some distance beyond the wound should be covered with gauze soaked in sterilised vaseline, so as to prevent the skin becoming irritated. (Dakin's Dermatitis.)

Dry Method.—This method aims at the immediate closure of the wound with a sufficient amount of reliable antiseptic within it to sterilise the whole of the infected arrear of tissue.

The two most popular applications are Bismuth and Iodoform Paste, and Brilliant Green Paste. The antiseptic paste, called "BIPP" from the initials of its components (bismuth, iodoform, and paraffin), by filling dead spaces, allows no fluid to accumulate, checks discharges, and at the same time keeps up a continuous antiseptic action, which eventually sterilises the wound without the necessity of frequent renewals of dressings. The technique is very definite and must be carried out with great care. On account of its poisonous effects, however, Bipp can only be used in small quantities; when very freely applied, blue lines on the gums, vomiting, diarrhoea, rapid pulse and high temperature are not uncommon.

As absolute rest is essential for the healing of all wounds, this rest of the affected area may be accomplished by a combination of suitable posture, splinting and bandaging.

One could enlarge much on "The healing and treatment of wounds," but the subject is far too comprehensive to deal with in a paper of this size. I have therefore confined myself to an outline of the general care and treatment of wounds. After much enquiry, wound treatment to-day, in my opinion, can be summed up in one word, "Simplicity" with regard to dressings and lotions.

CLASS ON ADMINISTRATION AT THE KENT COUNTY HOSPITAL, MAIDSTONE.

On Friday, April 24th, 1931, the members of the Administration Class of the British College of Nurses visited the Kent County Mental Hospital, Maidstone.

Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., the Matron, explained the various methods of administration in use in the hospital.

She invited the members to visit the following departments. The dispensary, the general stores; the main kitchen and scullery; the dining-room; a day ward; the recreation hall; the chapel; the medical block; the sick wards; the occupation-therapy department; the sewing-room; the laundry; the Nurses' Home and the Matron's House.

The Matron gave the class a delightful tea in her sitting-room, when she introduced the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, Dr. A. C. Hancock, M.C., to the members. Before leaving the Nurses' Home the Class offered Miss Macaulay a very hearty vote of thanks for her great kindness and hospitality, concerning which many appreciative comments were heard. The time was all too short to see the many departments, and members of the group expressed their desire to return at some future date and extend their knowledge.

NURSING EDUCATION AT THE KENT COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL.

We have received from Miss E. L. Macaulay, S.R.N., O.B.E., R.R.C., Matron of the Kent County Mental Hospital, Maidstone, the following interesting information.

The percentages of passes for 1930 for the General Nursing Council's Final Certificate in Psychological Nursing was 93 per cent.; Preliminary 63 per cent.

The percentages in the Hospital's Examination, which includes the following subjects, were as follows:—

Anatomy and Physiology	72 per cent.
Hygiene	96 "
Nursing, Practical	94 "
" Theoretical	95 "
General Diseases	91 "
Psychology	50 "
Invalid Cookery	100 "
Massage	86 "
Elementary Pharmacy	71 "

The nurse must satisfy the Examiners in all the above subjects, including ward work and general conduct, &c., before obtaining the Hospital certificate.

Courses of lectures are given by the Medical Staff for the first three months in each year, 20 respectively, to the three grades of nurses, namely 1st, 2nd and 3rd year, on Anatomy, Physiology, General Diseases, Psychology, and Clinical instruction; apart from Ward instruction there is a qualified Sister Tutor, by whom the students are tutored, and an Assistant Tutor.

A nine months' course is given in Elementary Massage by a fully qualified Masseuse, possessing the C.S.M.M.G.

Also a three months' course in Sickroom Cookery, by a fully qualified teacher in Domestic Science from the Kent Education Committee.

A three months' course of lectures in Elementary Pharmacy by a qualified Hospital Dispenser, holding the M.P.S.

There are:—One Home Sister, General trained; One Sister Tutor, General trained; One Junior Assistant Matron, doubly trained; One Night Sister, doubly trained; Two Ward Sisters, doubly trained, and four more nurses are at present taking their general training, whose names are still retained on the books, and will return here in the capacity of Ward Sister on the completion of their training, one of whom has won a scholarship, and has been granted one year more leave of absence in order to qualify for the C.M.B. certificate which the value of the scholarship carries with it.

In addition there are thirteen general trained nurses, including Danish, Swedish, Swiss, and Chinese, who have come to obtain experience in our English methods in the treatment of Mental diseases.

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