

SWABS.

Throat swabs should be sent to the laboratory without delay. Also make sure that the patient has not used an antiseptic gargle immediately before the swabbing, as sufficient of this may be taken up by the swab to prevent growth of the organisms.

CEREBO-SPINAL FLUIDS. (C.S.F.).

Fluids obtained by lumbar puncture should be received into a perfectly dry and clean tube, and if bacteriological examination is necessary the tube must be sterile. In any case it is essential that the fluid reaches the laboratory as soon as is possible. Perhaps it might be pointed out that blood-stained fluids are of very little use for cytological investigations.

PUS AND FLUIDS.

These are almost invariably required for culture of organisms, and must therefore always be collected into sterile vessels. When some time may elapse before the material reaches the laboratory, it is often very helpful if a thin smear is made on a microscope slide at the time of collection, and sent with the specimen. The site and nature of the lesion from which the fluid or pus has come should always be very fully stated on the investigation form.

TISSUES.

Tissues for histological examination should on removal be immediately placed to "fix" in an adequate amount of 10 per cent. formalin solution. This is of particular importance with tumour specimens, for the cells rapidly undergo degenerative changes, greatly increasing the difficult task of giving an accurate diagnosis.

SENDING SPECIMENS BY POST.

Specimens may be sent through the post to a recognised pathological laboratory for examination, provided certain conditions are observed. Specimens may be sent by letter post only, and *not* by parcel post.

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS.

Any such liquid or substance must be enclosed in a receptacle hermetically sealed or otherwise closed, which receptacle must itself be placed in a strong wooden, leather, or metal case in such a way that it cannot shift about, and with a sufficient quantity of some absorbent material (such as sawdust or cotton wool) so packed about the receptacle as absolutely to prevent any possible leakage from the package in the event of damage to the receptacle. The packet so made up must be conspicuously marked "Fragile with care," and bear the words "Pathological Specimen."

Any packet of the kind found in the Parcel Post, or found in the Letter Post not packed and marked as directed, will be at once stopped and destroyed with all its wrappings and enclosures. Further, any person who sends by post a deleterious liquid or substance for medical examination or analysis otherwise than as provided by these regulations is liable to prosecution. Most laboratories now supply containers that comply with these requirements.

DONATIONS TO THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIPS FUND, N.C.N.

The L.C.C. School Nurses' Social Union.			
Second contribution	7 4
Miss Alice Simpkin	5 0
			12 4
Already acknowledged	334 4 3
			£334 16 7

The following kind letter with her donation, 5s., has been sent by Miss Alice Simpkin, formerly Sister Hope at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and for just on twenty-one years Sister-in-Charge of the Hospital and Nursing Department on Likoma Island, Lake Nyasa, as a member of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa.

We feel sure that after her fine work in Nyasaland her help will be of the greatest value to her profession in Congress year, when we shall want to know how nursing is progressing all over the world:—

Letter from Miss Simpkin.

U.M.C.A., Likoma Island,
Nyasaland.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

The May JOURNAL came July 5th, and I read of the Reception at the College on May 13th. As a Fellow unable to be present, may I send a belated gift as a token of gratitude to Florence Nightingale, which I enclose? For nearly twenty-one years I have looked on from 8,500 miles away at all that is being done for our Profession. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has so kept me in touch with things that I am eager to do something to help when I come home for good at the end of this year. I still hear Isla Stewart's voice inspiring her nurses to go forward.

Yours sincerely,
ALICE SIMPKIN, F.B.C.N.

NEW FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARS.

Details concerning the Florence Nightingale Scholars for the Course at Bedford College, 1935-1936, who have now arrived in this country, prove how carefully the candidates have been chosen, and what a fine type of nurse is being sent by the National Committees who selected them, to benefit by the advantages offered by the Florence Nightingale International Foundation.

South Australia has sent Miss Kathleen Sterling Scrymgour, a Sister at the Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide. Miss Scrymgour was trained at the Adelaide Hospital, and at the McBride Maternity Hospital, and has had charge successively of the Male Surgical Ward, Casualty Department, of a Female Medical Ward, and of the Ophthalmic Department in her training school.

New Zealand has sent Miss Elizabeth Ruth Bridges, of whom the *New Zealand Nursing Journal* says:— Before taking up nursing, after passing the Public Service Entrance Examination, Miss Bridges was employed in clerical work for several years. She then entered the Southland Public Hospital for her general training and passed first for the Dominion in the State Examination of 1926. Six months after passing her examination she was appointed Ward Sister and remained in that capacity until February, 1928, when

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)