OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

HOW WOULD YOU CLEAN AFTER USE AND PUT AWAY THE FOLLOWING? (a) GUM-ELASTIC CATHETER; (b) PAIR OF RUBBER GLOVES; (c) BED MACKINTOSH; (d) FEEDER WITH SPOUT; (e) HIGGINSON'S SYRINGE.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this month to Miss Florence Ibbetson, Prince of Wales' Hospital, Greenbank Road, Plymouth.

PRIZE PAPER.

All hospital property is very expensive, so that the first thing to consider with regard to the cleansing and care of it is that no harsh cleansing material should be used that would damage the article and that it should be put away in such a manner as to preserve it from harm. A slight omission or carelessness may mean that the property is ruined.

(*a*) *A Gum-elastic Catheter.*—This should be wiped with a brown wool swab to remove any lubricant. It should then be rinsed from the eye downwards under cold running water, and washed in warm soapy water if oily. Syringe through a little spirit to dry the lumen and lay it quite straight and flat on a towel until dry. If it is required for use, place it on a tray in a formalin box. Gum-elastic catheters must be kept absolutely dry and cool, nor should they be packed too tightly together or they will stick.

(*b*) *A pair of Rubber Gloves.*—Rinse under cold running water to remove any blood, pus, etc. Wash the gloves in hot soapy water, using a soft brush and scrubbing the inside as well as the outside. Rinse off the soap. The gloves should then be boiled in plain water for 20 minutes. Hang them on a glove horse to dry on the outside, then turn them and hang until quite dry. The gloves should then be inflated to make sure there are no pin-pricks, and, if whole, dusted on both sides with powdered chalk, no excess being left in the finger tips. Fold the gloves between white paper or lint so that they are separate, and put them away flat, in an airtight box, in a cool, dry place. If they are to be kept sterile they should be put into the drum for that particular size and type of glove and sterilised by high-pressure steam in an autoclave for not longer than 10 minutes. Further sterilisation will rot the gloves.

(*c*) *A Bed Mackintosh.*—This should be removed from the bed and placed in a sink of carbolic acid 1 in 60 strength, for at least four hours. Then scrub the mackintosh with hot water and soap on both sides. No turpentine, vim or soda should be used on mackintoshes if the waterproof surface is to be preserved. The mackintosh is then hung over a roller until absolutely dry.

Powder it lightly on both sides with powdered chalk. It can then be put away either rolled over a thick stick or else hung over the rollers in the mackintosh cupboard. At any rate, it must not be folded, as this cracks the rubber. Two rubber surfaces must not be meeting, and the storage cupboard must be cool and dry.

Rubber goods soon decay and crack unless great care is taken of them.

(*d*) *A Feeder with Spout.*—It is always a nurse's duty to see to this particular article, maids cannot and should not be trusted to keep a spouted feeding cup clean. Any remaining liquid in the feeder should be emptied down the sink and the feeder rinsed out with cold water after most fluids; but with hot water after beef tea, chicken broth, etc., when there is a little grease. The feeder is washed in hot soapy water, using a test-tube brush, kept for the purpose, to clean out the spout. Any stains can be removed with a little vim or monkey brand, and a watch must be kept that the handle is quite clean. Rinse off the soap and dry the feeder on a clean teacloth. Then put the feeder away in the crockery cupboard, inverted, to keep out dust, and where it will not be knocked over easily. If there is any question of infection, it will be necessary to sterilise the feeder by placing it in a saucepan of cold water, bringing the water to the boil and boiling for 20 minutes. Then wash the feeder and put it away.

(*e*) *A Higginson's Syringe.*—Wipe the nozzle of the syringe with a brown wool swab to remove any lubricant or fæces. Syringe through with hot soapy water and then with plain water, and make sure that no traces of oil or grease are left, as oil rots rubber. Then the nozzle is removed and the syringe is held up to drip until no water is left inside. Keeping the syringe disconnected, place it in plain boiling water and boil for 20 minutes. If the nozzle is of glass, wrap it in old linen and place it in cold water in the steriliser, bringing it up to the boil, then add the syringe and boil both for 20 minutes. Then all water should be run out and the syringe dried thoroughly inside and out. A hot syringe will soon dry if all the water is run out at once. Wrap the syringe and nozzle separately in old linen and put away in an airtight tin box in a cool, dry place. If the syringe is to be put away sterile, lift it from the steriliser with cheatle forceps and run out the water. Then place it in a jar containing carbolic acid 1 in 60 strength and cover it with a well-fitting lid.

QUESTION FOR NEXT MONTH.

What are the duties of the School Nurse as a Health Supervisor?

AIR RAIDS AND EPIDEMICS.

Wing-Cmr. E. J. Hodsoll, Inspector-General of Air Raid Precautions, stated recently, when addressing Sanitary Inspectors at the Guildhall, that the suggestion that germs might be dropped from the skies to spread epidemics among the people, was quite out of the question.

Discussing the part which would have to be played by sanitary inspectors in air raids, Wing-Cmr. Hodsoll said: "I understand that 'bugs' do not take very kindly to being compressed and thrown about. It would be necessary to introduce the 'bug' into the system, and short of supplying each of them with a small knife to make a hole when he arrived, it could not be done."

There might be a big danger, however, if drains were burst by bombing, of the spread of epidemics, and certain steps were being taken for supplies of antitoxins. This side of the work of sanitary inspectors might assume great significance.

previous page next page