

For nearly ten days Mr. Charteris saw no one but myself and his wife. At the end of six weeks I removed the splints and he was out walking as well as ever. My name was immediately gilded with fame, and Armstrong's patients flocked to me. Armstrong, knowing the terrible nature of the injury, had predicted the patient's death and was now bewildered with the result. He had to retire later for want of patients.

"Was the limb really fractured so very badly?" enquired another doctor some years later.

"Yes, ground almost to powder, you might say."

"And gave no sign of lameness afterwards?"

"No more than before, there had previously been a slight hitch but I am sure there was less afterwards."

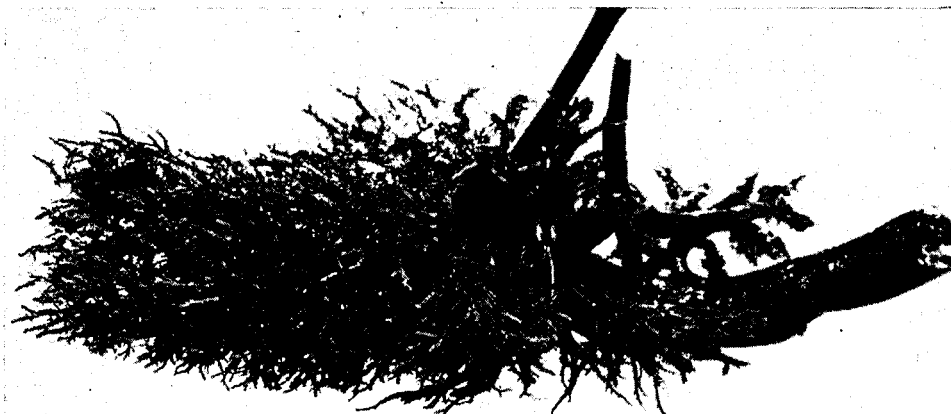
"Wonderful!" exclaimed the little doctor.

"Not at all. You see there lay the secret: the injured leg was of wood and we replaced it with a better one."

M. B. M.

Cold Casting Medical Specimens.

THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT application of plastics to surgery, is stressed in the August issue of *British Plastics*. In orthopaedic surgery, particularly, the applications developed by the Plastics Research Unit of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore, are known to be of



Three-dimensional model of the lung structure, showing tubes through which resin was injected into the original organ.

considerable value and surgical utility. Interesting developments are taking place which combine the application of plastics and refrigeration in the preparation of rigid three-dimensional anatomical specimens, says the article. There are many methods of internal casting, but it is believed that polyester resins offer advantages over other techniques. With the Frigidaire commercial low-temperature storage cabinet, a modified form of adjustable thermostatic control has enabled the desired low temperature to be pre-set, and maintained within close limits by the operation of the automatic electric refrigerating unit built into the equipment. The process is one of cold casting, using the specimen as the mould. The possibility of being able to produce faithful replicas of such delicate internal structures as the blood passages and capillaries of the lung, or the complex configurations of joint cavities will aid the training of medical personnel. With the help of coloured diagrams and X-ray photography, useful two-dimensional guidance has been obtained, but the three-dimensional results of the new technique will bring helpful guidance and simplified understanding of highly complex problems.

The use of refrigeration chills the original tissue or organ (which is to be injected) to about 0° C.—1° C., so that dissection does not have to be hurried. The specimen is allowed to thaw and the resin, tinted to the appropriate colour,

injected either under pressure or allowed to flow in by gravity. After polymerisation, the original tissue is removed by means of hydrochloric acid, leaving a replica of the internal blood and air passages, cavities and capillaries as a delicate tracery of plastics material. Refrigeration has also been found invaluable to slow up the polymerisation of the material after the catalyst has been added. Storage of the prepared resin liquid under refrigeration makes possible the retarding of the hardening process from, for example, about one hour at room temperature, to several hours during injection or even for several days' storage, if desired, at a temperature around minus 5° C. It has thus been possible to save considerable quantities of resin which would have otherwise been wasted as a result of gelling during the operations involved.

Work now being carried out in the preparation of three-dimensional replicas, although still in the development stage, has attracted wide attention in international medical circles, particularly in America, where interest in this advanced development of a specialised branch of British medical research is very considerable.

Surgery for Nurses.*

By James Kemble, Ch.M., F.R.C.S.

The recently published book "Surgery for Nurses" by

James Kemble, Ch.M., F.R.C.S., has much in it that will be of value to the Student Nurse during her "Surgery" period of study. The text is clear and to the point and the illustrations are extremely good. Indeed they are perhaps the best part of the book.

It is well planned. There is much very useful information about theatre instruments and technique. Here again the clear illustrations are of great value, especially to the Nurses who are not fortunate enough to spend long in the theatre during their training days.

I should like to commend the author's interest in the training of the Nurse which

is evident throughout the book.

I recommend this book to all Nurses doing their third-year surgery and to those who need to refresh their minds on the subject.

U. S.

* John Wright & Sons, Ltd., Bristol. Price 21/-.

The Royal College of Midwives.

WE ARE MUCH INDEBTED to Mrs. F. R. Mitchell, O.B.E., General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives, for clarifying the Minister's "rather misleading announcement" regarding the constitution of the Central Health Services Council and the Standing Maternity and Midwifery Advisory Committee.

On the former Committee, Miss Deane, M.B.E., is a member, and upon the Advisory Committee, Miss Deane, Miss Fensome, Miss Merry, Miss Stewart and Mrs. Mitchell have seats.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be held at 2.30 p.m. on Friday, October 6th, 1950, at the Nurses' Home of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, W.2.

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