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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958.

Nurses' Final Examination—General Nurse Training

31ST MARCH, 1976

SURGICAL NURSING

Time allowed: Three hours

Important:—

Read your questions very carefully.

Answer only what is asked as no marks will be given for irrelevant material.

ALL questions are compulsory.

1. A male patient, thirty (30) years of age, has suffered 25% burns, involving the trunk, upper right arm and face, whilst rescuing his children from a burning house.
 - (a) What first-aid measures can be taken to prevent:—
 - (i) shock;
 - (ii) further injury?—[5 marks]
 - (b) What immediate care and treatment would be given on admission to hospital?
(Exclude care of the burned surface). —[8 marks]
 - (c) The burns are treated by the "open method".
What nursing measures are necessary to prevent :—
 - (i) infection; —[3 marks]
 - (ii) contractures; —[2 marks]
 - (iii) depression? —[2 marks]—[20 marks]
2. When the district nurse visits Mrs. Bryant aged 72 she finds her on the floor unable to move. On examination the nurse suspects Mrs. Bryant to have a fractured left femur.
 - (a) What would lead the nurse to suspect this? —[3 marks]
On admission to hospital the diagnosis of fractured neck of femur is verified by an X-ray and Mrs. Bryant is admitted to the Orthopaedic ward. Later in the day she is transferred to the theatre for insertion of a nail and plate and following recovery is returned to the ward.
 - (b) Outline the physical and emotional care of this elderly lady for the next 48 hours. —[12 marks]
—[15 marks]
3. A patient is admitted with obstructive jaundice due to a stone in the common bile duct.
 - (a) Why would I.M.I. Vitamin K be ordered pre-operatively? —[2 marks]
Following cholecystectomy and choledochostomy, the wound is closed and the gall bladder bed is drained by a corrugated drain tube via a stab wound.
 - (b) What nursing measures would be used to avoid respiratory complications? —[3 marks]
 - (c) Describe your care of the wound and the corrugated drain tube.—[5 marks]
—[10 marks]

4. Jennifer, four (4) years of age, has returned to the ward following tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy.
- Describe the observations you would make in the next 24 hours indicating the significance of those you mention. —[6 marks]
 - What instructions would you give to Jennifer's mother prior to her discharge the following day? —[4 marks]
- [10 marks]
5. Mr. Bourke is admitted to the ward suffering from a suspected perforated peptic ulcer.
- What clinical features would assist the doctor to confirm this diagnosis? —[3 marks]
- Operation of oversewing of ulcer was performed. He returns to ward with an intravenous and naso-gastric tube in situ.
- Discuss the post-operative management of this patient's naso-gastric tube.
When could the naso-gastric tube and intravenous therapy be removed? —[5 marks]
- [8 marks]
6. Mrs. Smith has been admitted to your ward for a vaginal hysterectomy and colpoperineorrhaphy.
- Describe the specific pre-operative medical and nursing management of Mrs. Smith. —[5 marks]
 - Following surgery, outline the post-operative nursing care under the following headings: —
 - Bladder —[6 marks]
 - Perineum. —[2 marks]
 - Bowels. —[2 marks]

—[15 marks]
7. Mrs. Reid has returned from the theatre following a sub-total thyroidectomy.
- How would you recognize the following complications?
 - Concealed hæmorrhage. —[5 marks]
 - Tetany. —[4 marks]
 - What care would you give if you suspected Mrs. Reid had concealed hæmorrhage? —[1 mark]
 - What treatment is Doctor likely to order if tetany occurred? —[10 marks]
8. An elderly gentleman is admitted to the ward for right cataract extraction. He has very little sight in his left eye.
- Define what is meant by cataract. —[1 mark]
 - What emotional preparation would you give this gentleman prior to his operation which would help him cope with his post-operative stage of the illness? —[5 marks]
 - State two (2) possible complications which could occur following this operation. —[1 mark]
- [7 marks]
9. Why is it important: —
- for a person following stripping of varicose veins to be ambulatory as soon as possible;
 - in first aid treatment of a compound fracture of the femur for the bones to be splinted as they lie;
 - to observe for limb weakness in a patient with a head injury;
 - to observe the stools in a baby with a provisional diagnosis of intussusception;
 - to observe the respirations of a patient who has had relaxant drugs at operation? —[5 marks]