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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Nurses' Final Examination — General Nurse Training

1st APRIL, 1976

MEDICAL NURSING

Time allowed: Three hours

Important:—

Read the questions very carefully.

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

ALL questions are compulsory.

1. (a) Give two (2) different types of cardiac disorder which predispose to the development of sub-acute bacterial endocarditis. —[2 marks]
(b) What is the most common micro-organism which causes sub-acute bacterial endocarditis? —[1 mark]
(c) What investigations are carried out to confirm the diagnosis? —[1 mark]
(d) What methods are used to prevent the development of sub-acute bacterial endocarditis in people with predisposing conditions? —[2 marks]
(e) Cardiac failure may be a complication of bacterial endocarditis.
(i) Define cardiac failure. —[2 marks]
(ii) What are the major symptoms and signs of left ventricular failure? —[3 marks]
(iii) Name two (2) different types of drug used to treat left ventricular failure and indicate, in principle, their mode of action. —[4 marks]
(f) Explain why patients with bacterial endocarditis are particularly liable to stroke. —[2 marks]
—[17 marks]
2. A woman, twenty-three (23) years of age, is admitted in status asthmaticus.
(a) Explain what is meant by status asthmaticus. —[2 marks]
(b) What pathophysiological changes occur in the lung which result in asthma? —[2 marks]
(c) Why may this condition be fatal? —[1 mark]
(d) The following drugs are used frequently in the management of severe asthma. Explain the mode of action in each case and give one (1) important side effect.
(i) Adrenaline. —[2 marks]
(ii) Hydrocortisone. —[2 marks]
(iii) Diazepam (Valium). —[2 marks]
(e) Sometimes patients in status asthmaticus require artificial ventilation with an intermittent positive pressure respirator. What are the main indications for respirator therapy? —[2 marks]
—[13 marks]
3. A girl, eighteen (18) years of age, is admitted with a provisional diagnosis of acute glomerulonephritis.
(a) What may be the significance of a sore throat two weeks previously? —[2 marks]
(b) (i) What characteristic changes may be found in her urine on ward testing and microscopic examination? —[2 marks]
(ii) In what way would you expect the urinary findings to differ if she had acute pyelonephritis? —[2 marks]
(c) Why is it important to pay close attention to her fluid balance? —[2 marks]
(d) Describe the dietary modifications you would expect to be made and the reason for such changes. —[4 marks]
—[12 marks]

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2

4. (a) What is a peptic ulcer? —[2 marks]
(b) How is the diagnosis of peptic ulcer established? —[3 marks]
(c) List three (3) major complications of peptic ulceration.
In each case indicate the main symptoms and observation which
would lead you to believe this complication had occurred. —[9 marks]
(d) Explain the principles of management of a patient who has an
uncomplicated acute peptic ulcer. —[6 marks] —[20 marks]
5. State briefly the precautions you would take with respect to each of
the following procedures: —
(a) Administration of intravenous potassium chloride.
(b) Discharging a patient who has commenced treatment with a
monoamineoxidase antidepressive drug.
(c) Administration of intravenous fluid to a patient with a recent
myocardial infarction.
(d) Administration of oxygen to a patient with chronic obstructive
airways disease.
(e) Care of an underwater seal drainage system for pneumothorax.
(f) Tracheobronchial toilet in a patient with an endotracheal tube
receiving intermittent positive pressure respiratory assistance.
(g) Starting a blood transfusion.
(h) Feeding a baby who has whooping cough.
(i) Administering the first dose of a course of intravenous penicillin.
(j) Feeding a patient via a naso-gastric tube. —[20 marks]
6. Define the following terms and state a condition in which each may
occur: —
(a) Diplopia.
(b) Dysphasia.
(c) Steatorrhoea.
(d) Alkalosis. —[8 marks]
7. The disease diabetes mellitus is caused by a lack of effective circulating
insulin in the body.
(a) In a few words give the reason for the following symptoms: —
(i) Glycosuria.
(ii) Thirst.
(iii) High blood sugar. —[3 marks]
(b) Give three (3) different methods by which this disease may be
treated. —[3 marks]
(c) What is the cause of diabetic ketosis? —[1 mark]
(d) Name four (4) specific procedures which may be used to facilitate
the treatment of diabetic ketosis. —[2 marks]
(e) Give two (2) reasons why hypoglycaemic reaction may occur. —[1 mark] —[10 marks]