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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses' Final Examination—General Nurse Training

2nd June, 1976

SURGICAL NURSING

Time allowed: Three hours

Read your questions very carefully.
Answer only what is asked as no marks will be given for irrelevant material.
All questions are compulsory.

NURSES' FINAL EXAMINATION—GENERAL NURSE TRAINING

SURGICAL NURSING

- (a) Describe the pre-operative period in the history of the patient, relating to the following headings:
(i) Care of the wound and preparation for surgery. (10 marks)
(ii) Prevention of infection. (10 marks)
(iii) Care of the patient in the post-operative period. (10 marks)
- (b) What observations indicate the onset of paralytic ileus in the early post-operative period? (10 marks)
- (c) Describe the medical and nursing management of paralytic ileus. (10 marks)
- (d) What is the main purpose of each of the following in the treatment of a patient over a large area of the body surface?
(i) Planning or nursing assessment. (10 marks)
(ii) Catheterisation. (10 marks)
(iii) Blood examinations. (10 marks)
(iv) Intravenous therapy. (10 marks)
(v) Extremity electrolytes. (10 marks)
(vi) Haemoglobin estimation. (10 marks)
(vii) Urinary output. (10 marks)
(viii) High protein diet. (10 marks)
- (e) State two (2) common presenting features of this condition. (10 marks)
- (f) Name two (2) special investigations which may be required before operation and briefly state the reason for each. (10 marks)
- (g) State the symptoms and signs of this condition. (10 marks)

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958.

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Important:—

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ALL questions are compulsory.

1. A 60 year old widow, who lives with her daughter, is admitted to your ward for above-knee amputation of her right leg because of advanced peripheral vascular disease.
 - (a) Name two other conditions that might necessitate amputation of a limb. —[2 marks]
 - (b) What psychological support should be given this patient and her relatives in the pre-operative period? —[4 marks]
 - (c) Describe in detail the post-operative care of this patient using the following headings:—
 - (i) The nursing care required in the first 4 hours. —[6 marks]
 - (ii) Care of the wound and preparation for prosthesis fitting. —[4 marks]
 - (iii) Prevention of flexion deformity of the hip. —[4 marks]—[20 marks]
2.
 - (a) Define paralytic ileus. —[2 marks]
 - (b) What observations indicate the onset of paralytic ileus in the early post-operative period? —[3 marks]
 - (c) Describe the medical and nursing treatment of paralytic ileus. —[5 marks]—[10 marks]
3. What is the main purpose of each of the following in the treatment of burns over a large area of the body surface?
 - (a) Plasma or serum transfusion. —[2 marks]
 - (b) Catheterization. —[1 mark]
 - (c) Blood examinations.
 - (i) haematocrit
 - (ii) serum electrolytes
 - (iii) haemoglobin estimation. —[3 marks]
 - (d) Debridement. —[2 marks]
 - (e) High protein diet. —[2 marks]—[10 marks]
4. An elderly man is to undergo prostatectomy for benign enlargement of the prostate gland.
 - (a) State two (2) common presenting features of this condition. —[2 marks]
 - (b) Name two (2) special investigations which may be required before operation and briefly state the reason for each. —[2 marks]
 - (c) State the symptoms and signs of clot retention. —[4 marks]
 - (d) State two (2) other specific complications of prostatectomy. —[2 marks]—[10 marks]

5. (a) A youth has suffered a severe chest injury in a road accident. On examination, you find that part of the thorax is being drawn in on inspiration and bulges out on expiration.
What is the term used for the above condition? —[1 mark]
- (b) The patient is dyspnoeic and cyanotic.
What first aid measures would you carry out to improve ventilation? —[2 marks]
- (c) In hospital, the patient is found to have a haemothorax and has an underwater seal drainage commenced.
What is the purpose of this type of drainage? —[1 mark]
- (d) How would you ensure safe, efficient functioning of the underwater seal drainage? —[4 marks]
- [8 marks]
6. A visitor to the ward has severe epistaxis.
- (a) What first aid treatment is given? —[3 marks]
- (b) (i) If bleeding has not been controlled, what further treatment may be required, e.g., in Casualty Department? —[4 marks]
- (ii) While receiving treatment in Casualty Department, the visitor becomes shocked from blood loss.
What symptoms and signs would indicate this state? —[2 marks]
- (iii) What specific treatment is required to treat the shock? —[1 mark]
- (c) State two (2) local and two (2) general causes of epistaxis. —[2 marks]
- [12 marks]
7. An elderly patient has been admitted to hospital for intra-ocular surgery.
- (a) What is an intra-ocular operation?
Name one (1) condition for which this type of operation is necessary. —[1 mark]
- (b) During the post-operative period, any increase in intra-ocular pressure may cause complications.
State four (4) restrictions that are imposed on the patient to prevent complications occurring. —[2 marks]
- (c) What observations will you make when the eye is redressed? —[5 marks]
- (d) State two (2) local and two (2) general complications that may occur following this type of operation. —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]
8. A patient is to have a blood transfusion.
- (a) During a transfusion, what changes in the patient's condition indicate that an incompatibility (haemolytic reaction) is taking place? —[5 marks]
- (b) What immediate action should be taken if a haemolytic reaction did occur? —[2 marks]
- (c) What precautions must be taken prior to the connection of each unit of cross-matched blood to the transfusion set? —[3 marks]
- [10 marks]
9. A male patient, twenty-two (22) years of age, is admitted to your ward with severe head injuries following a motor car accident. He is unconscious and has a bloodstained discharge from his right ear.
What observations are made of this patient; indicate their importance and the likely changes which may indicate the early onset of cerebral compression? —[10 marks]