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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Nurses' Final Examination—General Nurse Training

4TH AUGUST, 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 has just been admitted to your ward following a motor car accident. He is unconscious and has sustained severe head injuries. Describe his nursing management under the following headings:—
  - (a) Specific observations required and the significance of any changes recorded. —[8 marks]
  - (b) Nursing care required while he is unconscious. —[12 marks]
  - (c) How you can assist the family during his hospitalization. —[5 marks]—[25 marks]
2. An elderly male patient is admitted to the ward with an acute embolism of the femoral artery.
  - (a) List the signs and symptoms of this condition. —[4 marks]
  - (b) Describe how you would care for the patient's limb prior to embolectomy. —[5 marks]—[9 marks]
3. What specific advice prior to discharge from hospital would be given to patients who have undergone the following procedures:—
  - (a) repair of an inguinal hernia; —[3 marks]
  - (b) split skin graft on back of hand; —[3 marks]
  - (c) radical mastectomy; —[3 marks]
  - (d) oversewing of a perforated peptic ulcer; —[3 marks]
  - (e) prostatectomy? —[3 marks]—[15 marks]
4. A patient has undergone thoracotomy and lobectomy. He returns from operating theatre with two chest tubes connected to underwater seal drainage apparatus.
  - (a) Define thoracotomy and lobectomy. —[2 marks]
  - (b) What is the purpose of each of the chest tubes? —[2 marks]
  - (c) What are the advantages of underwater seal drainage in this situation? —[2 marks]
  - (d) Why does the fluid level in the glass tube under the seal swing if the tubes are patent? —[2 marks]
  - (e) State two (2) reasons for the cessation of fluid swing. —[1 mark]—[9 marks]

5. A four week old, male infant is admitted to children's ward with a diagnosis of congenital hypertrophic pyloric stenosis.
- What is meant by "hypertrophic pyloric stenosis"? —[1 mark]
  - What are the signs of this condition? —[3 marks]
  - Describe the specific pre-operative treatment necessary. —[2 marks]
  - A Rammstedt's operation (pyloroplasty) is performed. Briefly describe this procedure. —[1 mark]
  - State the principles of post-operative nutritional management. —[3 marks] —[10 marks]
6. A young man, nineteen (19) years of age, has sustained a compound fracture of left tibia and fibula, in a motorcycle accident.
- What measures could be used on admission to combat shock? —[4 marks]
  - He has never been immunised against tetanus.  
Give the name and dosage of a prophylactic injection against tetanus which will give immediate protection. —[1 mark]
  - What type of immunity will this confer? —[1 mark]
  - It is proposed to transfer the patient to theatre for debridement of wound, reduction and immobilization of fracture.
    - Give the meaning of the underlined words. —[3 marks]
    - What method of immobilization may be used in this case? —[1 mark] —[10 marks]
7. Mr Kent has been transferred to recovery room following a retropubic prostatectomy under general anaesthesia. He has a 3 way Foley catheter in position with a continuous bladder irrigation; a 2nd unit of blood has just been commenced intravenously.  
Describe the nursing care given Mr. Kent, in recovery room, until his return to the ward. Indicate in your answer the factors which would probably determine his return to the ward. —[12 marks]
8. What term is used to describe the following?
- Prolapse of the urinary bladder into the vagina.
  - Air in the tissues.
  - Twisting of the bowel.
  - Blood in the pleural cavity.
  - A malignant condition of connective tissue. —[5 marks]
9. What may be the cause of the following?
- Anxiety and dyspnoea in a patient several hours after a partial thyroidectomy. —[1 mark]
  - Severe haematuria in a patient receiving heparin therapy. —[1 mark]
  - Sudden gush of bile when releasing a T-tube after it has been clamped off for 12 hours. —[1 mark]
  - Swinging temperature 7-10 days following peritonitis. —[1 mark]
  - Frequent swallowing following tonsillectomy. —[1 mark] —[5 marks]