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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958.

Nurses' Final Examination—General Nurse Training

30TH MARCH, 1977.

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 35 year old female patient admitted to your ward is to undergo the operation of sub-total thyroidectomy for the condition of thyrotoxicosis.
 - (a) What specific pre-operative care is required? —[5 marks]
 - (b) What observations may indicate the onset of reactionary haemorrhage post-operatively? —[5 marks]
 - (c) What nursing measures may be required if reactionary haemorrhage occurs? —[5 marks]—[15 marks]

2. (a) Following choledochostomy, what two (2) main signs indicate a patent common bile duct prior to periodic clamping of the T tube? —[2 marks]
(b) After clamping the T tube, what early symptom may indicate obstruction to the flow of bile? —[1 mark]
(c) On release of the clamp, what sign would indicate that the flow of bile had been obstructed? —[1 mark]
(d) Before removal of the T tube, what specific radiological investigation may be carried out to ensure that the bile duct is free from obstruction? —[1 mark]
(e) What is the significance of clay coloured stools? —[1 mark]
(f) What dangerous condition may develop if bile leaks out around the site of insertion of the T tube in the common bile duct? —[1 mark]
(g) State why there is a tendency to bleeding in a patient with obstructive jaundice. —[3 marks]

—[10 marks]

3. A 40 year old married woman is admitted for the operation of radical mastectomy.
 - (a) Describe her care under the following headings:—
 - (i) psychological care, pre and post-operatively; —[6 marks]
 - (ii) position post-operatively; —[3 marks]
 - (iii) exercises required in post-operative period. —[4 marks]
 - (b) List four (4) complications associated with the operation of radical mastectomy. —[2 marks]—[15 marks]

4. Mrs. Oakley, twenty-five (25) years of age, is admitted with severe blood loss due to incomplete abortion.
- (a) Define incomplete abortion. —[2 marks]
 - (b) List five (5) symptoms and signs which may be evident. —[5 marks]
 - (c) Following correction of shock and dilation and curettage of the uterus, name three (3) complications which could become evident. —[3 marks]
- [10 marks]
5. When nursing a patient who has a fractured shaft of the femur immobilized in a Thomas splint with skeletal traction, what measures are taken to ensure:—
- (a) traction is maintained; —[2 marks]
 - (b) the splint is adequately supporting limb; —[3 marks]
 - (c) pressure areas are protected; —[2 marks]
 - (d) prevention of infection at pin site; —[2 marks]
 - (e) maintenance of correct bone alignment? —[1 mark]
- [10 marks]
6. A young man is admitted to your ward with severe facial injuries and marked respiratory difficulties for which a tracheostomy has been performed.
- (a) What are the purposes of a tracheostomy in this case? —[2 marks]
 - (b) Why is it necessary to ensure humidification of the air mixture delivered to the patient via the tracheostomy tube? —[1 mark]
 - (c) What would make you suspect respiratory passage obstruction and in such an emergency what action would you take? —[6 marks]
 - (d) List three (3) specific complications of a tracheostomy and state how each may be prevented. —[3 marks]
- [12 marks]
7. Explain the difference between the following:—
- (a) empyema and atelectasis; —[3 marks]
 - (b) paradoxical respiration and flail chest; —[3 marks]
 - (c) haemothorax and haemoptysis; —[2 marks]
 - (d) bronchoscopy and bronchography. —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]
8. What symptoms and/or signs would lead you to suspect the onset of each of the following conditions:—
- (a) cardiac arrest; —[2 marks]
 - (b) deep vein thrombosis of the leg; —[2 marks]
 - (c) femoral embolism; —[2 marks]
 - (d) haemolytic reaction to blood transfusion? —[2 marks]
- [8 marks]
9. Brett, a five (5) year old child, has undergone tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy.
- (a) (i) State the position in which he will be nursed in the immediate post-operative period. —[1 mark]
 - (ii) Why is this position used? —[1 mark]
 - (b) What are the indications and contra-indications for tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy? —[4 marks]
 - (c) What information would be given to his mother before he is discharged from hospital? —[4 marks]
- [10 marks]